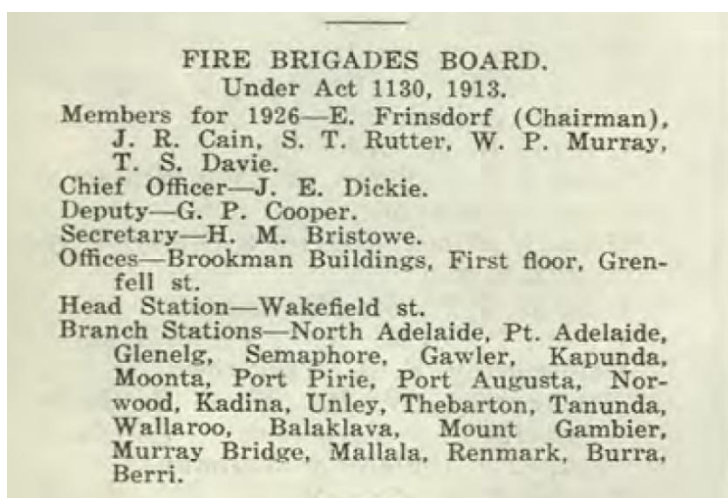


Adelaide Fire Brigade 1927

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1927



Sands and McDougall Directory for 1927

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 1 January 1927, page 2

FIRE BRIGADE BUSY

Seven Calls This Morning

Members of Adelaide Fire Brigade will remember New Year's Eve, 1926. From 12.5. to 4.35 this morning they answered seven calls. Two proved to be malicious, and another was a result of a faulty line. No serious damage resulted from any of the fires. Following a call to a lane at the rear of the Imperial Hotel where rubbish was found burning, the brigade at 1.9 went to a lane off Charles street. Here the trouble was a burning box. The blaze was soon extinguished. What might have resulted in a serious outbreak occurred in a lane at the rear of the Pavilion Theatre in Rundle street. But for the prompt arrival of the brigade a mass of burning boxes and rubbish would have proved a serious danger to surrounding buildings. Shortly after 4.30 the brigade was called to the premises of the Adelaide Radio Company, Limited, in Rundle street. An outbreak had occurred in the cellar. Apart from the burning of a few boxes and a quantity of paper it is understood that no other damage resulted.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 1 January 1927, page 13

A NEW YEAR FIRE.

Speedily Extinguished.

Within half an hour after the advent of the New Year the alarm of fire was raised in Grenfell street, and showers of sparks were seen behind and above the roof of the new Executor Trustee Company's Building. The event drew together the remnant of the New Year's Eve crowd who had not left the city by the late trams, and there was a great rush into the Imperial lane, where the outbreak appeared to be situated. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade sent three appliances, but only one was required. This quickly extinguished the fire, which had originated in a heap of cordial boxes stowed at the back of the premises in the lane. The flames ignited the lower window panels of the Executor Trustee Building, and but for the prompt arrival of the firemen a serious conflagration would probably have resulted.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 1 January 1927, page 11

A FIREMAN INJURED.

The Fire Brigade received one of its usual "New Year greetings" in the form of a false alarm in Bank-street on Friday evening, at about 11.53. While on the return journey the engine collided with a large motor bus in Currie-street, with the result that Station Officer R. Griffin was injured. He was taken to the fire station, where he received medical attention.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 4 January 1927, page 8

CASUALTIES.

METROPOLITAN GRASS FIRES.

The Metropolitan Fire Station received a call at 6.56 on Monday evening to the west parklands near Hindley street, where a grass fire was quickly extinguished. Another fire broke out a little distance away at 7.24. The Norwood Fire Brigade also dealt effectively with a small grass fire near the Burnside District Council Hall on Monday. The loss in every instance was negligible.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 8 January 1927, page 1

FIRE BRIGADE BUSY

Tobacconist Shop Guttled

Two calls to grassfires, a false alarm in Hindley street, and a call to a fire in Gawler place kept the Metropolitan Brigade busy today. Much damage to stock and fittings by fire and water resulted from an outbreak which occurred this afternoon in a tobacconist shop occupied by J. H. and V. Paine, next to Tyrrell's bookshop, Gawler place. The brigade received a call by telephone at 1.30, and prevented the spread of the flames to adjacent buildings. One grassfire occurred at the East Parklands shortly before 12.30 p.m., and the other about 20 minutes later at the West Parklands, opposite Phillip street.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 10 January 1927, page 8

FIRE BRIGADE BUSY.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received calls almost hourly to small fires on Saturday afternoon. After attending to a rubbish fire at the south end of the Islington workshops at 9.45 a.m., a call was received at 12.30 to a grass fire in the East parklands, and another at 12.50 to the West parklands near Philip-street. At 3.20 a carelessly dropped cigarette caused a fire in the Derby Stand, at the Victoria Park Racecourse. A small portion of the decking was destroyed before the blaze was extinguished. A grass fire at Park-terrace, Gilberton, brought the engines out again at 4.49, and at 5.43 they were turned out for a chimney fire at the Adelaide Hospital. At 6.45 another grass fire was reported in the South parklands, near Gilles-street. On Sunday the activity of the brigade was not abated, and malicious false alarms from Avenue-road, and Gurney-road, Norwood, added to the labors of the firemen. Automatic fire alarms at Sands & McDougall's, Light-square, and T. J. Richards, Keswick, gave false alarms owing to the heat of the buildings. At 9.57 a.m. the metropolitan brigade was called to extinguish the flames at a switchboard at the Adelaide Hospital. The board was extensively damaged. Grass fires at South-road, Unley, a rubbish and grass fire at Heaton Park, Norwood, and three small grass fires at Alexander-avenue, Toorak, received attention between midday and 2 p.m. on Sunday also.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 10 January 1927, page 13

FIRE BRIGADES BUSY.

Week-End Outbreaks.

At 1.25 p.m. on Saturday the Adelaide Fire Brigade answered a call to a shop in Hindley street, but on arrival the firemen found that a cloud of dust raised by alterations going on in the premises had been mistaken for smoke by a passerby, who had rung the alarm. At 4.49

p.m. the North Adelaide Brigade were summoned to a grass fire on Park terrace, Gilberton. The flames were extinguished before any damage was done. An appliance from the head station was called to a grass fire on South terrace at 3.45 p.m. Little damage resulted from the outbreak. A fire broke out in the shop of Mr. Joseph H. Paine, hairdresser, and tobacconist, of Gawler place, shortly after closing time on Saturday, which resulted in considerable damage to the stock and interior of the shop. A telephone call was sent to the Metropolitan Brigade by the police and the reels were quickly at the scene of the blaze. The flames were subdued before they penetrated into the show windows facing the street. The same brigade answered alarms to the east and west park lands about 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, where grass fires were extinguished without loss to property. A grass fire occurred at Happy Valley on Sunday afternoon in a paddock between the road and the north side of the reservoir. It was quickly extinguished by six policemen of the remount section, who are quartered in that vicinity.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 11 January 1927, page 15

TWO SMALL FIRES.

Two calls were received by the Fire Brigade on Monday evening. At 8.35 the door of a room at the premises of Messrs. Megaw & Hogg's auction mart, in a lane off Waymouth-street, was noticed to be on fire. The brigade effected a good save. At 9.23 a blaze at the back of Comino's cafe, Hindley-street, attracted the attention of passers-by, and the brigade was called. A heap of rubbish, including bales of old paper, had ignited.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 11 January 1927, page 12

BRIGADES KEPT BUSY

Low Water Pressure

Probably caused by the excessive heat, a number of small fires engaged the attention of the Adelaide and suburban fire brigades this morning. Although water pressure was poor, the brigades rendered fine work by their promptness, and were able to subdue all the outbreaks. At 10.30 o'clock Norwood Fire Brigade was called to 62 Frederick street, where grass had blazed. Little damage was done. Adelaide Fire Brigade turned out at 11 o'clock to South terrace, to the house occupied by Mr. J. T. Wainwright, where a fire was in progress. It had apparently started in some grass on a nearby vacant allotment, and had spread toward the dwelling. A fence and shadehouse were destroyed. Next call for the same brigade came from Botanic Park. Hackney road, where some jarrah posts were burned down by flames which emanated from a grass fire. Unley Brigade attended a blaze at 1.40 o'clock this afternoon at the premises of Mr. R. Whittle, grocer, of Goodwood road. Colonel Light Gardens. Portion of a fence was damaged, as well as a quantity of firewood. The origin of the blaze is thought to have been a grass fire.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 14 January 1927, page 15

GRASS FIRES.

Five grass fires were extinguished by the brigades on Thursday. The North Adelaide Brigade was called to Medindie at 10.19, and to Ovingham at 11.45 a.m. the Norwood Brigade answered a call to a grass fire at the rear of Cowell Brothers' timber yards at 2.18 p.m., and while they were attending to this fire another call was received to a blaze which had broken out at Alexander-avenue, and was extinguished by the Metropolitan Brigade. At 5.3 p.m. Norwood was again called to a grass fire at Portrush-road, Linden Park.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 14 January 1927, page 9

110 DEG. IN ADELAIDE.

PEAK IN HEAT WAVE REACHED.

COOL CHANGE LIKELY TO-DAY.

FIRES IN GRASS.

Fire brigades were kept busy in the metropolitan area on Thursday. At 10.19 a.m. the brigade at North Adelaide had to give its attention to a grass fire near the corner of Hawker road and Nottage terrace, Medindie. An hour later a call was received from the Lower North road, Ovingham, where a washhouse and fence were alight. When returning from that engagement a grass fire on the Lower North road was extinguished. At 2.18 p.m. the Norwood firemen got their first call, which was to subdue a grass fire near Cowell Brothers' timber yard, on the Parade. At 4.4 pm. the Adelaide station received a call from the South Terrace Railway Station. On arrival it was discovered that grass had been ignited in the western park lands. An hour and a quarter later a reel had to be sent to extinguish a fire in grass and fencing at Portrush road. Monreith. The Norwood Brigade, which would have had the duty ordinarily, was busy with a grass fire at Alexandar avenue, Toorak. A blaze occurred at Mr. Burford's place, Chief street. Brompton, during the afternoon, when a fowl shed and a quantity of fencing were destroyed. The prompt arrival of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade saved the surrounding buildings. The damage is estimated at £50.

IMPROVING WATER SUPPLIES.

On Thursday the Hydraulic Engineer (Mr. H. E. Bellamy) said the position was slightly improved. Practically all the fire brigades in the metropolitan area had the requisite pressure. No complaints had been received regarding the water pressure in different suburbs. The Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. J. McInnes) stated that Mr. Bellamy was doing everything possible to overcome the difficulties. The Adelaide City Corporation, which receives its water free from the Government, had promised to accede to a request that its employes should be more sparing with water on parks and reserves during factory hours of the day.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 15 January 1927, page 6

Motor Car on Fire

A motor car owned by Mr. J. I. Lee, of Gover street, North Adelaide, back-fired and burst into flames in Grenfell street shortly after 11 o'clock this morning. Adelaide Fire Brigade was called, but the flames had been extinguished before its arrival. The engine was slightly damaged. The car was insured for £100.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 15 January 1927, page 5

DISASTROUS CITY BLAZE

Joinery Factory Destroyed

THREE HOUSES DAMAGED

Damage estimated at thousands of pounds was done when a fire destroyed the joinery factory of Messrs. Milburn & Jeffery in the west-end of the city late this afternoon. The blaze was first noticed a few minutes before 5 o'clock. It gained control of the building in a remarkably short time, and when the Adelaide Fire Brigade, together with a number of suburban brigades arrived all hope of saving the structure and its contents had gone. The firemen, in addition to pouring a heavy volume of water on the flames, made valiant efforts to save the dwellings near at hand, and in this task they were successful.

Though Mr. Milburn, sen., one of the partners in the firm, could not give an exact estimate of the damage done he stated that it would run into thousands of pounds. Valuable stocks of timber used in the manufacture of office and other fittings, which had taken years to mature, were eaten up with startling rapidity by the flames, which rose high and threatened adjoining dwellings. In addition to the timber destroyed saws, some of which had cost hundreds of pounds, and other machinery were damaged, beyond repair. Tonight they lay twisted and broken among the debris. A safe containing books and other documents withstood the heat.

The first intimation of the fire was given when a curl of smoke was noticed issuing from the southern end of the building. Almost immediately Mr. W. J. Wege, motor engineer, who rents portion of a garage opposite, notified the Fire Brigade headquarters. Within a few minutes the Adelaide Brigade under Mr. G. P. Cooper, deputy chief, arrived. The complement comprised four officers, 18 men, and all the fire fighting vehicles. Later on the Norwood, North Adelaide, and Thebarton Brigades reached the scene and did good work in quelling the flames.

Furniture Removed

While the fire was at its height and was threatening the houses in North street, the occupants, reinforced by dozens of willing helpers, were engaged at high pressure in removing the contents of the houses. Before long the narrow highway was almost blocked with beds, bedsteads, mirrors, wardrobes, crockery, pictures, and other kinds of household accessories. As the water from the hoses splashed and poured on to the belongings they were shifted still further back into sheds and other places for cover. By the time this phase of the fire had ended, hundreds of people from all parts of the city, who had been attracted by the smoke and flames, had arrived. They congregated round the Currie and Waymouth street entrances to the blaze, but were not allowed by the police to traverse North street. Inspector Hannan and Sgt. Whitfield were in charge of the constables.

Houses Threatened

As the flames licked up the dry and seasoned timber in the factory they shot across the narrow roadway, and at one period set alight to one of the dwellings. A double-fronted house, one portion of which was occupied by Mrs. Collins and the other by her sister, suffered severely. Standing almost against the walls of the burning building, the house endured the full force of the flames. A steady stream of water had to be played on to it, but so great was the heat that one of the ceilings in Mrs. Collins' part of the dwelling col-lapsed and several men engaged in removing furniture had a narrow escape. Other houses down the same side of the street were only slightly damaged, but the owners did not take any risk and quickly had their belongings out into the street. "We will have to sleep out in the park," remarked one woman as she surveyed the scene of desolation and ruin. When the flames had died down and the firemen had given the "All clear" signal people owning the furniture stacked in the street were soon busily engaged in removing it back into their homes. By 8.30 this evening most of it had been carried into the dwellings. Beyond a few breakages little damage was done to the furniture in its transit. No serious accidents were reported. One fireman was struck in the eye with a flying piece of red-hot timber and was momentarily dazed. Another had a finger cut by a piece of galvanized iron. The one and only tragic incident was the burning of a cat, which dragged itself into a gutter of water and died. Though the fire had almost burned itself out by 6.30 pieces of the blackened and twisted timber occasionally burst into flames for several hours afterward, and the firemen were compelled to keep their hoses going. Some of the employes gathered round the ruins tonight and discussed the misfortune which had overtaken their employers. Though some of the residents of North street saw the fire almost at the start they could not advance any suggestion as to its cause. "I noticed a few whiffs or smoke curling into the air," said one, "and almost before I had time to realise that a fire had broken out in the factory it was a mass of flames." Mr. T. Drury, who conducts a confectionery shop near the destroyed building, said that when he first noticed the outbreak it had a good hold.

Fierce While it Lasted

"Fierce while it lasted," was how Mr. G. P. Cooper, deputy chief of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, described the fire. He stated that when the brigades arrived it was seen that there was no chance of saving the building, but though the flames were reaching high into the sky and dense volumes of smoke were spreading everywhere he and his men felt certain that they could prevent the fire from spreading to the adjoining houses. The water pressure at the outset, he said, was only fair, but after turncocks had arrived and had attended to the mains in Currie and Waymouth streets the flow of water soon showed an appreciable increase. Two pumps were then brought into play. When a hose was laid across Currie street the tramway

traffic between the city and Hilton, Torrensville, and Henley was held up. The cars, however, were soon diverted by way of North terrace, but by 6 o'clock the hose had been shifted and they were then able to resume on their usual route. It is understood that the contents of the factory were insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 17 January 1927, page 14

SATURDAY AFTERNOON'S FIRE.



The photograph gives a good idea of the volume of smoke created by the fire which totally destroyed the timber and joinery works of Messrs. Milburn & Jeffery, in North-street, Adelaide, on Saturday afternoon.



These photographs depict phases of the fire-fighting operations on Saturday afternoon, when Messrs. Milburn & Jeffery's timber and joinery works in North-street, Adelaide, were destroyed.



When the fire broke out in Messrs. Milburn & Jeffery's joinery works in North-street, Adelaide, on Saturday afternoon, the neighboring houses were threatened with destruction and the occupants hurriedly removed their furniture and personal belongings. The photograph shows some of this impedimenta in North-street. F. M. Gray, photo.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 17 January 1927, page 9

FIERCE WEST-END BLAZE.

BIG JOINERY WORKS GUTTED.

SEVERAL HOUSES MUCH DAMAGED.

Adelaide experienced its first big fire for the new year late on Saturday afternoon, when the big joinery works of Milburn & Jeffery in North street, between Waymouth and Currie streets, were completely gutted, and several residential cottages were much damaged. It is stated that the works were insured for about £4,000, but the damage amounts to £8,000 or £9,000.

The outbreak was first noticed shortly before 5 p.m., but the flames, fanned by a stiff south-westerly breeze, spread so rapidly that the large wood and iron structure and its highly inflammable contents were a mass of flames when the brigade arrived, and the firemen were obliged to concentrate upon saving adjacent properties. In the factory waiting for delivery to-day, was about £1,000 worth of work for the memorial hall at St. Peter's College. This represented about three months' labour, and was completely consumed.

A Dangerous Position.

It would have been difficult to find anywhere in the city a locality more congested or awkwardly situated for a fire. Milburn & Jeffery's premises, which occupy a frontage of about 160 ft. to North street (between Light square and West terrace) and extend westwards nearly to Gray street, stood in the midst of closely packed dwellings, rows of small cottages, and shops, and had it not been for the most efficient and determined efforts of the firemen, there is no knowing how far the flames would have extended. The versions of people in the vicinity as to the origin of the fire, and the time it began, varied, considerably. In some quarters it was stated that the flames broke out at 4.30 p.m., and was first noticeable in or near the office. Others emphatically aver that the rear portion of the factory was alight first. It was, however,

at 4.58 p.m. that the city brigade received its first notification— a telephone call— while subsequently warning was given from street alarms. To use the words of one eye-witness, "No part of it went first—it all went together." At any rate, this was practically the state of affairs when the brigade arrived. Dense clouds of smoke and flames rose from the doomed buildings—a single-story edifice, about 30 ft. high— and were visible in the suburbs miles away.

Chaos in Side Streets.

Quickly realizing the seriousness of the situation, the brigade officers urgently summoned assistance from the Norwood, Unley, Thebarton, and North Adelaide stations. In the meantime a crowd collected, and the arrival of motors by the score added to the congested state of the streets, and greatly hampered the manoeuvres of the fire appliances. The firemen, aided by police, had the hoses connected in a very short space of time considering the obstacles in their way; but, by the time the first jets of water were brought to bear, the front of the factory had begun to collapse, and sheets of flame were licking across the narrow gap of North street, igniting telegraph poles, and the verandahs of cottages opposite. The hoses were immediately directed upon this new danger, and had to be kept there for some time owing to the wind blowing the flames and cinders steadily in that direction. An insufficient supply of water did not help matters, and it was not until several turncocks were communicated with, and a greater force of water directed into the Currie and Waymouth streets mains, that the position in this regard improved. Meanwhile chaos had developed in the narrow sidestreets at the back and front of the building, which by now was a raging inferno. Panic stricken householders dragged whatever effects they could lay their hands upon, into the roadway, and in a few minutes there was a scene begging description. Piles of bedding, furniture, crockery, and clothing stood in the streaming gutters, and the lines of distended hoses twined in and out among the debris. The arrival of the four suburban appliances improved the situation, and, with the water pressure greatly increased by the brigade motor pumps, there were soon 12 powerful jets of water at work. These reinforcements came none too quickly, for houses to the right of the joinery works had caught on fire, as well as the back portions of two cottages and a shop in Gray street at the rear of the main fire. The firemen, who by this time totalled 35, attacked the flames from all sides. Some poured water upon the blaze from precarious perches on the tops of surrounding roofs, while others hung on to the kicking hoses in the streets. The crowd, which had grown to several thousands, was kept in check by police reinforcements, including mounted men, under Inspector T. H. Hannan, and Sgt. J. F. Naylor. One of the first duties of the police was to clear the streets of thoughtless motorists, who were shepherded as far away as West terrace. The tramway services to Henley Beach, Torrensville, and Hilton were cut off to facilitate the fixing of hoses in Currie street. The brigades were kept hard at work until after 6.30 p.m., by which time the situation was well under control, and suburban appliances began to return before 7.

Damage to Cottages.

Mrs. M. A. Collins, the owner of one of the two neat dwellings immediately on the right of the fire, and which had been erected only about 12 months ago, had the unenviable experience of seeing her home almost completely destroyed, and much of her furniture and household effects ruined. Almost touching one side of the burning factory her house took fire in a few minutes. The roof buckled and the ceilings fell in. Later, firemen poured water through holes in the roof. Next to her home lived her sister, Mrs. M. Shinnars, and her husband. This house was not damaged to the same extent, but the contents were naturally knocked about in the course of their hasty trans-*port* to the footpath. The row of five cottages immediately across the road from the fire, which are owned by Milburn and Jeffery, were all much burned and blistered in front. The occupants respectively are Mr. and Mrs. J. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. F. Bowden, Mr. and Mrs. N. Church, Mr. and Mrs. M. Wasley, and Mr. and Mrs. L. Howes. On the left of the joinery works two small residences were slightly affected. Much of the furniture was removed, but the firemen prevented the flames from taking hold. In one of these cottages

lived Messrs. F. Camilleri and J. Agius. In the other were Messrs. J. Vella, L. Vella, J. Cauchi, and S. Pispico. Two small attached dwellings and a fishshop in Gray street at the rear of the factory seemed in imminent danger of total destruction. The rear portions caught alight and began to burn fiercely. Men, women, and children dragged household effects out of their front doors, and an hysterical scene prevailed until the firemen were able to get to work at that spot and prevent the flames from damaging the major portion of the premises. The rear section of these dwellings had been mostly used as kitchens, and consequently the damage to crockery, cooking utensils, and foodstuffs was extensive. Mr. L. Papas was the occupier of one place, and Mr. Kiriakos Mouzalias was the tenant of the other. Mrs. Crist Salakis was the proprietor of the fish shop. Several of the premises in this area were also owned by Millburn & Jeffery. Between these premises and the centre of the conflagration stood a cottage, owned by Millburn & Jeffery, and which had some time ago been condemned as unfit for habitation, and was unoccupied. This was quickly burned, the flames licking over the fence and destroying a heavily laden peach tree in an adjoining yard, greatly to the distress of the owner, Mrs. Naylor.

No One Hurt.

A gratifying feature of the whole occurrence was that although the flames covered such a large area, and occurred in such congested surroundings, no injury to life or limb resulted in any quarter. When the homes next to the fire in North street caught fire, a neighbour showed his humane spirit by rushing through the backyard and liberating a Pomeranian dog, which was in an enclosed box. The box had even then caught fire, and the rescuer slightly burned his hand. The dog escaped with portion of its hair burned, and there-after scampered up and down the street among the prevailing atmosphere of confusion. By nightfall order had begun to reassert itself, neighbours coming to the assistance of those who had suffered the loss of homes or goods.

Distressed Owners.

The joinery works, which contained stocks of timber, and much valuable machinery, were jointly owned by Mr. J. W. Millburn, of King William road, North Unley, and Mr. F. G. Jeffery, of Watson avenue, Toorak. Mr. Millburn, who had been ill in bed, dressed, and hurried to the fire as soon as the news reached him, and was on the scene about half an hour after the beginning of the outbreak. Accompanied by his son, he looked unwell and most distressed. In the works, he said, was a large quantity of frames and woodwork for the new memorial hall at St. Peter's College. It was to have been delivered on Monday. "It is a pity we did not get it out this morning," he said pathetically, as he surveyed, through a haze of steam and smoke, the charred and blackened remains of a number of large archways. The safe, containing the books of the firm was blackened and covered by debris, but seemed to be intact. The cottages owned by the firm, Mr. Millburn said, were insured. A workman stated that the works had closed at midday when everything was in order. Mr. Jeffery conducts a picture show in the Unley Town Hall, and as he was there in the afternoon, did not hear about the fire until some time later. When communicated with in the evening, he said the property was insured with the Commercial Union Company. He could not say offhand for what amount, but thought it was about £4,000. The premises and contents would be worth about £8,000 or £9,000. From 10 to 15 employees would be affected by the destruction of the works. A MODERN NERO. A feature of the occurrence was the remarkable good humour of the huge crowd of onlookers. Curious people of all classes and social degrees mingled and told each other complete histories of previous fires and of the locality. Hundreds of inquisitive small boys clambered over the fire engines, climbed poles and roofs to gain a better vantage point, and greatly increased the worries of the police and firemen generally. The police had continually to push the crowd back from the danger zones, and to make passages for the fire engines and hoses. When a man casually drove two ferocious-looking but perfectly harmless cows down Waymouth street, however, the crowd parted as if by magic. Windows and balconies of surrounding buildings were full of onlookers, but with the exception of those in the immediate danger zone, spectators did not seem much troubled at the occurrence. In one house

adjacent to the burning buildings, indeed, a modern Nero passed the time playing the latest jazz pieces on a pianola.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 17 January 1927, page 15

FIRE SPRINKLER ALARM.

Due to a defect in the fire sprinkler alarm at the Australian Implement and House Furnishing Company building on North-terrace, some of the stock was damaged on Sunday afternoon. The alarm bell on the outside of the building began to ring about 2 p.m., and a fire reel arrived from the Wakefield-street fire station in a few minutes. Firemen entered the building on the first floor, but there was no trace of a fire. Water from the sprinkler system on the top floor had reached the first floor and splashed through some of the windows before it was turned off.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 17 January 1927, page 10

RETAIL HOUSE FLOODED

Damage to Valuable Goods

Mr. W. J. White (general manager of the Australasian Implement and House Furnishing Company) paid a glowing tribute to the efficiency of the Fire Brigade this morning when commenting on the flooding of several departments of the warehouse on North terrace. "There is no doubt," he said, "that the promptitude with which the brigade answered the call and the efficiency and workmanlike methods employed were instrumental in preventing the total inundation of the whole of the building. "Adelaide citizens should be proud of their Fire Brigade," he added. "The release of a great volume of water was due to a blowout in a sprinkler head over the furniture department, and it is assumed that the sudden cutting off of the water at the fire at the premises of Messrs. Milburn & Jeffery may have been in some degree responsible for the blow-out in the sprinkler head." All departments on the Bank street side of the premises from the third floor to the basement were affected with the consequent damage to a large range of expensive and valuable goods. In the furniture department valuable bedroom, furni-room, and upholstered suites have been practically ruined. Soft furnishings on the second floor, including valuable Persian, Indian, handmade, and other carpets, and rugs, window treatments, casement cloth, repps and art serge are all showing the effects of the water which covered a wide area on each floor, and is still in evidence in places. In the basement are to be seen large quantities of dress materials, and towelling, quilts, sheeting, damask, toys, and fancy goods, which were on show in the Bank street window, the contents of which suffered. Were it not for the promptitude of the officers in placing salvage sheets over goods on the different floors, an enormous increase in the damage sustained would have resulted. Despite the quickness with which the brigade answered the call, which it received from an electric automatic apparatus connected to the Wakefield street headquarters, the few minutes which elapsed before they could reach the scene were sufficient for the water to play havoc with all the goods with which it came into contact.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 17 January 1927, page 15

A GRASS FIRE.

A grass fire broke out in the property of Mr. E. Jeffreys, Wakefield-street, about 4 p.m. on Sunday. A reel was sent from the Central Fire Station, and the flames were put out after they had burned the grass and slightly damaged a fence.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 17 January 1927, page 12

"MORE THAN WATER."

Firemen on the Jump.

With a twisted sense of humour, some persons in the early hours of Saturday morning determined to remind the over-worked members of the fire brigades that the possible dangers of the heat wave had not passed. The Adelaide station received a call from a Croydon road fire alarm at 1.10 o'clock, and another at 2.23 from a box stationed near one of the pugholes. Both calls were maliciously caused. One of the exasperated firemen said, "If we could only catch them we would give them more than water."

Border Watch (Mount Gambier, SA : 1861 - 1954), Tuesday 18 January 1927, page 6

DISASTROUS ADELAIDE FIRE.

Damage estimated at thousands of pounds was done when a fire destroyed the joinery factory of Messrs. Milburn and Jeffery in the west-end of Adelaide late on Saturday afternoon. The blaze was first noticed a few minutes before 5 o'clock.

It gained control of the building in a remarkably short time, and when the Adelaide Fire Brigade, together with a number of suburban brigades, arrived, all hope of saving the structure and its contents had gone. The firemen, in addition to pouring a heavy volume of water on the flames, made valiant efforts to save the dwellings near at hand, and in this task they were successful.

Though Mr. Milburn, sen., one of the partners of the firm, could not give an exact estimate of the damage done he stated that it would run into thousands of pounds. Valuable stocks of timber used in the manufacture of office and other fittings, which had taken years to mature, were eaten up with startling rapidity by the flames, which rose high, and threatened adjoining buildings.

In addition to the timber destroyed, saws, some of which had cost hundreds of pounds, and other machinery were damaged beyond repair. They lay twisted and broken among the debris. A safe containing books and other documents withstood the heat.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 18 January 1927, page 13

THEFT AT A FIRE.

During the fire on Saturday at the premises of Messrs. Milburn & Jeffery, joiners and carpenters. North-street, Adelaide a cottage in Gray-street, immediately behind the joinery works, was entered by thieves and over £35 in notes and silver was stolen. The money belonged to Mr. M. Chaliou (18), a Greek, who lives with his uncle and aunt in the cottage in Gray-street. He is employed at the Oriental Hotel, and for the past year he had been saving money to assist his mother and sister to come from Greece to Australia. The money, which was locked in a suitcase in his room, was withdrawn from the Savings Bank last Tuesday, and he intends to send it to his relatives to-day. He returned from his employment at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday, and discovered that the case, in which he had kept his money securely locked, had been forced open.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 18 January 1927, page 14

Fire at City Bakehouse

Adelaide Fire Brigade was called at 1.10 o'clock this morning to a bakehouse occupied by Mr. H. Backman, baker, at Regent Court, off Regent street, Adelaide. A large quantity of wood was destroyed and the roof of the bakehouse extensively damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 18 January 1927, page 14

A BUS ON FIRE.

A motor bus used in the Colonel Light Gardens service and owned by Mr. A. W. Sinfield, of Richmond-avenue, Colonel Light Gardens, caught fire in Gouger-street on Monday afternoon.

A reel from the Adelaide Brigade turned out and the fire was quickly subdued. Mr. G Sinfield was in charge of the bus.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 19 January 1927, page 12

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT A BAKERY.

At 10 minutes past 1 on Tuesday morning, the Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to the premises occupied by Mr. H. Backman, a baker, in Regent court, off Carrington street, and owned by Mr. Holloway, of Kyre avenue, Kingswood. The roof, of the premises, the bakehouse oven, and a quantity of firewood were burnt. The building was insured in the Norwich Union Company.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 19 January 1927, page 15

A SMALL FIRE.

The Fire Brigade received a call shortly after 4 p.m. on Tuesday to the premises of Mr. J. Fimeri, wood merchant, at Philip-street, city. A stove was found in flames, which were quickly subdued. It was stated that Mr. Fimeri attempted to light a fire in the stove with the assistance of a bottle of petrol.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 19 January 1927, page 2

Fire at Postal Stores

Shortly before 11 o'clock this morning the Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to the postal stores at West terrace. It extinguished a fire which had started in a cloakroom. Damage was negligible.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 20 January 1927, page 10

A RUBBISH FIRE.

A fire broke out in the City Corporation's depot at Hurtle-square about 3 p.m. yesterday. The Wakefield-street Fire Brigade extinguished the flames before any damage was done. The outbreak is believed to have been caused by boys.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 20 January 1927, page 10

A SMALL GRASS FIRE.

The fire brigade received a call shortly before 6 p.m. on Wednesday to a small grass fire at the rear of the Parade Ground, King William-road. No damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 20 January 1927, page 10

A SPARK CAUSES FIRE.

At 10.44 a.m. yesterday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to two adjoining dwellings in Hindley-street, occupied by Mr. J. F. Wisman and Mr. A. W. Linfoot respectively, where a spark from a copper had caused a fire to break out in the washhouses, which adjoined one another. Both buildings and the contents were damaged. Before the arrival of the brigade the employes at the Post-office stores in Hindley-street rendered excellent service with fire extinguishers, and prevented the flames getting a secure hold.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 20 January 1927, page 1

BRIGADES BUSY

Grass Fires Prevalent

The city fire brigade was kept busy extinguishing grass fires at Mile-End this morning. Although several houses were menaced only slight damage was done to fences. At 11.23 the brigade was called to a vacant allotment adjoining the premises of the Waterworks Department, East terrace, Mile-End. Flames approached close to a shed, but the blaze was extinguished before any damage resulted. While that fire was in progress another call was received to an allotment nearby owned by Mesdames Brodie and Hill. A small area of grass was burned. The attention of the men was then directed to smoke from an allotment near the gasometer of the South Australian Gas Company. The paling fences surrounding several houses became ignited. The brigade was assisted by many civilians who used bags and buckets of water. The combined efforts prevented any serious loss. Thebarton brigade was called to a small padlock in Stirling street, Thebarton, shortly after 11 o'clock to extinguish a grass fire. No damage was sustained to fences or property. At 12.23 the city brigade was summoned to a paddock adjoining Anzac Highway at Plympton. A quantity of grass was destroyed. Due, it is thought, to a spark from a railway engine, a paddock of grass adjoining the property of Cheary Brothers, builders, of Devon street, Goodwood, caught alight shortly after 2 o'clock to-day. Adelaide Fire Brigade was called and effected a good save. Two large wood and iron sheds and a quantity of timber were destroyed. The loss will probably exceed £100. A large workshop nearby, containing more than £1,000 worth of machinery, had a narrow escape, but due to the prompt action of the brigade it was saved from any damage. The destroyed sheds were insured.

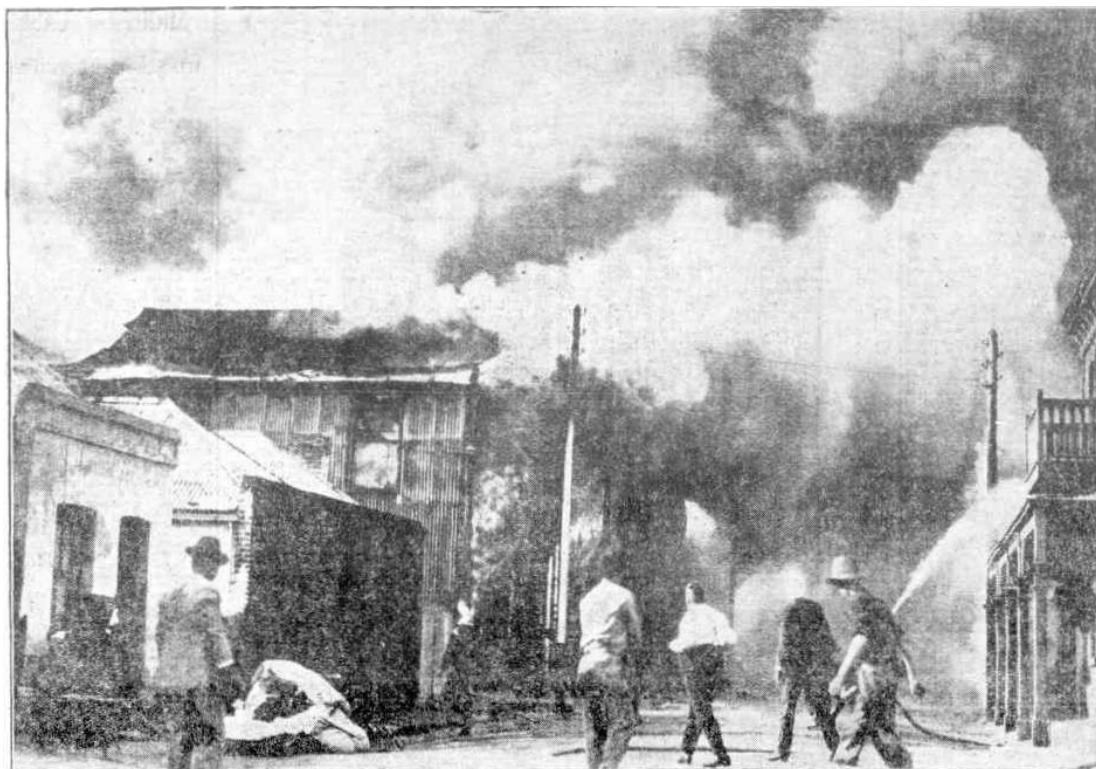
Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 22 January 1927, page 15

FIRE DESTROYS BAGS.

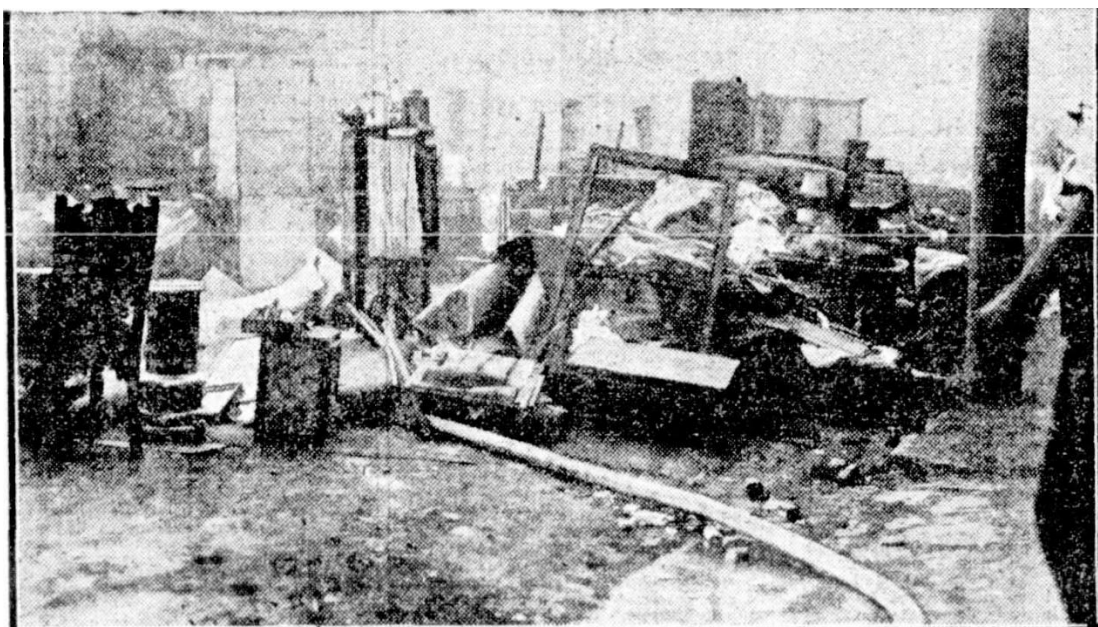
At 9.42 p.m. on Friday the Fire Brigade received a call to the workshops of T. C. Hubbard, engineers, Sturt-street, where some old bags were alight. The fire was quickly subdued.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 22 January 1927, page 50

FIRE IN ADELAIDE.



These photographs depict phases of the fire-fighting operations on Saturday afternoon, when Messrs. Milburn & Jeffery's timber and joinery works in North-street, Adelaide; were destroyed.



When the fire broke out in Messrs. Milburn & Jeffery's joinery works in North-street, Adelaide, on Saturday afternoon, the neighboring houses were threatened with destruction and the occupants hurriedly removed their furniture and personal belongings. The photograph shows some of this impedimenta in North-street. F. M. Gray, photo.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 22 January 1927, page 51

FIRE IN THE CITY.

A £10,000 BLAZE.

JOINERY WORKS GUTTED.

A few minutes before 5 o'clock on Saturday afternoon large volumes of smoke and huge tongues of flame were seen rising from the premises of Messrs. Milburn and Jeffery, builders and contractors, and shop and office fitters and joinery workers, North-street, Adelaide. The fire brigade were speedily on the spot, but the flames had got such a hold that it was impossible to save any part of the building or contents. The premises consisted of a large two storey structure, of galvanized-iron, with wood frame, with the exception of one section of

brick wall, at the southern end of the west side. In addition to the whole of the metropolitan fire brigade equipment, reels arrived from North Adelaide, Unley, Norwood, and Thebarton, and they were under the direction of Deputy Chief Officer Cooper. The large stock of the factory embraced, in addition to a gas engine and machinery, valuable timber and a lot of partly-made and finished articles. It is stated that about £1,000 worth of work for the additions to St. Peter's College was ready to be delivered this week. It is estimated that the damage is in the vicinity of £10,000. The insurances are believed to be less than half that amount. Hundreds of motor cars were attracted to the vicinity, and buses raced up with their quota of interested spectators. Rarely before has so large a crowd gathered at an Adelaide fire. The vehicles, in fact, extended from Light-square to West-terrace, and the initial operations of the firemen were hampered. However, with the arrival of foot and mounted police, order was established and a clear space maintained in North and Gray streets. Owing, no doubt, to the dryness of the material after the heat wave, and to the generally inflammable nature of the stock, the flames had the whole building in their grip in a very short time. The heat and smoke in the adjacent streets were intense, and the tongues of fire rose to a great height. It was apparent that the building and its contents were doomed, and attention was directed to saving the adjoining property. That this was in peril was realised, not only by the fire-fighters, who worked with vigor and determination, but by the neighbors. There were cries of "Save the furniture!" and in a moment dozens of volunteers were removing the contents of the houses close by into the street. Beds, tables, and all kinds of domestic furniture occupied the middle of North-street, from a position a little north of the burning premises almost to Currie-street. The heat was intense, and at times waves of fire burnt almost across the roadway, so that it was thought advisable to remove the furniture still farther away, in order that it might be outside the danger zone. This was done, and later on a quantity of it was placed in buildings at the other side of North-street, and a considerable distance from the scene of the conflagration. This was done partly to leave a track for the fire engines, and partly for the protection of the articles.

"Crockery Almost Red Hot."

"You have had a tough job," remarked an onlooker, to one of the men who had worked hard in rescuing furniture. "Yes," was his reply. "The crockery in the house next the factory was almost red hot. It scorched one's hands to touch it. Some of the woodwork too was nearly hot enough to catch alight." The remarks did not appear to exaggerate the actual position, to those who inspected the scene after the fire had been extinguished. The woodwork in front of several cottages on the east side of North-street was so badly scorched that it seemed remarkable that it had been saved. Those who had emptied their homes of their belongings wondered where they would sleep, but most of them were able to take their furniture back when the danger had passed. Accommodation was offered to sufferers by Mr. W. Hunter, of the Adelaide City Mission, which has a building nearby in Light-square, and he helped those whose dwellings were ruined to find a home for the time being among neighbors. Two small cottages, adjoining the premises on the south side were saved with difficulty. The one nearest the factory is occupied by four men— Messrs. J. Vella, L. Vella, G. Cauchi, and S. Pispoes. In the second house Messrs. F. Camillari and J. Agius live. They appeared to think that they had been fortunate in having their homes and belongings saved. "We thought it must get into the houses." said one of the number, and indeed it was a tribute to the energy and skill of the firemen that the places were so little damaged.

Fire Carried Across Street.

The firemen did their work well, and it was due to their efforts that the damage was not far more serious. When the blaze was at its height, the south-westerly breeze fanned the flames across North-street. The verandahs of the houses on the opposite side were charred and the paint burnt off and blistered and windows cracked with the heat. When the fire began a bed stood on one of the verandahs, and the presence of mind of a man who rushed and carried the bed-clothes into the house probably prevented the row from catching alight. The sparks and burning shavings which were whirled into the air swept over the roofs of the houses,

however, and set fire to dried grass in a small paddock at the rear. A band of men had to turn to and beat the blaze out. Electric light wires were damaged and hung in twisted coils, where the poles had been burnt away. Employees of the Electric Supply Company were soon at work disconnecting the affected wires and taking meters out of the houses, which had been evacuated.

Cottages In Danger.

Firemen climbed on to the roofs of two semi-detached cottages, Nos. 17 and 15, North-street, which were adjoining the blazing building and played on to the flames until the roofs beneath them caught alight. The fire-fighters had at length to beat a hurried retreat when the roof fell in holes beneath them, but they attacked the burning roof from the ground and quelled the outbreak there. No. 17, which was separated from the joinery works by a narrow path, suffered the most, and it was flooded with water. Though most of the furniture had been removed there was not time to move that in the kitchen where a dresser full of crockery, a safe and other things were left. In the hall gaping holes showed in the roof. The adjoining house, No. 15, though damaged by water did not appear to have suffered so much from the flames, and the roof was intact. All the furniture had been taken out of it. Both houses were fairly new, having been erected within the last two years. A widow, Mrs. F. J. Collins, with her three sons lived in No. 17, and her sister, Mrs. S. H. Shinner, with her husband and little son lived in No. 15. Adjoining them in No. 13, the mother of the two women, Mrs. R. Driscoll, a lady of 73, was living alone, and she was hurried away at the beginning of the outbreak. The furniture was put through the front window which was torn out to make room. Numbers of men gave assistance, among them Messrs. H. Graham and J. M. Coppinger. They stated that it was from the south-eastern corner of the building that the smoke first poured out into the street. That was where the office was situated. Spectators in the vicinity of North-street were greatly touched by the sight of a cat with fur singed off which crawled from under the wreckage of the burning factory and collapsed and died in the water table.

Gray-street Properties Threatened.

Had the wind been blowing from the east across Gray-street, at the back of the factory, a general conflagration would almost inevitably have resulted. Both sides of this thoroughfare are flanked by small cottages, set closely together, and with some of them abutting right on to the factory area. Fortunately, the wind blew from the west, and the break provided by North-street prevented the fire from spreading in that direction, although several of the cottages which face the factory were scorched, but volumes of water from the hoses prevented them from catching alight. In Gray-street, a four-roomed brick tenement owned by Milburn and Jeffrey, and used as a storehouse for bags of sawdust was practically gutted, and the back rooms of three small cottages in Naylor-place, off Gray-street, were partly destroyed, and the contents damaged. These cottages are owned by Mrs. M. Naylor, of Franklin-street, and are occupied by Messrs. Kirrakos Mouzalia, Louis Papas, and C. Christenson. The flames spread also to within a few feet of the cottage occupied by Mrs. H. Baldock, but were extinguished after the back fence had been burnt. At the side of Naylor-place is a small building occupied by the Stock-owners' Co-operative Shearing Coy., but this escaped damage. During the height of the fire several incidents kept the crowd amused, particularly the antics of a pedestrian who, when ordered out of the street by a mounted constable, played hide and seek with him round a fire engine. At another stage a fireman endeavored to remove his wader for the purpose of emptying it of water, but it had stuck, and the combined efforts of a constable and a civilian were required to get it off, the fireman hopping around on one foot while they tugged.

Statement by Mr. Jeffery.

Mr. Jeffery stated on Saturday night that the property, as well as the contents, belonged to the firm. There were valuable stock of timber and a large quantity of partly made and finished articles. With out access to the books, which before the fire were locked away in the safe, it was impossible to make an estimate of the value of the contents of the factory. He could say,

however, that there was a large and valuable stock, which included a lot of fittings for St. Peter's College. The premises and the contents were separately insured in the Commercial Union Assurance office, but, again, without the books and papers he could not tell the amount of the insurance. He had no knowledge of how the fire originated. In accordance with his usual custom on Saturday mornings he left the premises at about 10 minutes to 12 o'clock. At that time everything was apparently all right. Ten men were employed at the works.

Injuries Sustained.

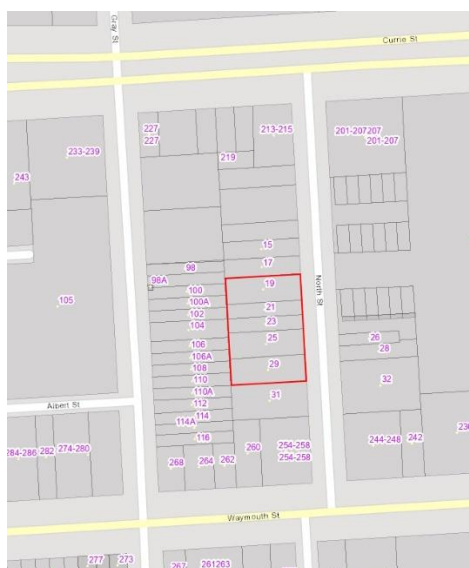
The only injuries reported were sustained by two of the firemen, one of whom had hot cinders thrown into his eyes owing to the force of water from one of the hoses striking a burning beam just in front of him. He was knocked back on to the roadway in a dazed condition. The ambulance officer of the Motor Cycle Club (Mr. C. R. Burns), who was on the spot, rendered first aid, and in a few minutes the man was in the thick of it again. Another fireman later gashed a finger on a piece of galvanized iron, but hardly stayed long enough to let Mr. Burns put a bandage on for him.

More Water Needed.

Chief Officer Dickie, of the Fire Brigade, said calls were given simultaneously from the Weymouth-street and Light-square alarms at 4.58 p.m., and several telephone messages were put through immediately afterwards. The fire, however, must have been burning for some time before the first call was received, as when the brigade arrived the place was a raging inferno from end to end. At first the pressure of water in the mains was poor, so poor that before being coupled up to the powerful fire pumps it was practically only a trickle, and a thirsty fireman was easily able to enjoy a refreshing drink from the running hose, much to the amusement of the crowd. Turncocks, however, were quickly on the scene and increased the local pressure. About 16 or 18 foot-constables and half a dozen mounted men were in charge of Inspectors Nation, Hannon, and Sergeants Naylor and Gurry, and they performed their duties admirably.

Rescuing a Dog.

Mr. C. H. Howe, of George-street, Thebarton, stated that he saw the smoke from his place and hastened with all speed to the city. By the time he reached the scene the property was enveloped in flames. He secured a place of vantage, however, on the roof of a fowlhouse in an adjacent yard, and was watching the stream of water, when he heard the whine of a dog proceeding from a kennel in the yard of a cottage. The flames had surrounded the animal, and water was playing on the woodwork. He jumped down to rescue the dog, which he caught by the bottom jaw and hauled from its place of imprisonment. The hair of the animal was singed, but, on finding itself in the open space, it made off. Mr. Rowe placed his hand on a piece of timber which had become ignited and sustained burns on the palm. "I have been a boiler fireman in my time," he remarked, "and am not afraid of a little heat. I am also a dog fancier, and I cannot bear to see an animal suffer." When told that he had taken considerable personal risk, he replied, "Not from the dog. I know too well how to handle a dog to be afraid of the animal. The fire was another matter." Mr. Milburn, who had been absent from the business on account of illness during the morning, received a shock when he was informed of the fire. Although much indisposed, he hastened to the scene, but was greatly upset. When spoken to he said he could not at that moment say what value of the material was in the factory. He knew it was considerable, and was only partly insured. The premises, which were owned by the firm, were insured, but not for anything near their full value. The firm would be heavy losers, and the interruption of the business was a serious matter. He mentioned that the firm owned several cottages in North-street and two in Gray-street.



Location of Messrs. Milburn and Jeffery, builders and contractors, and shop and office fitters and joinery workers, North-street, Adelaide.



B 1816

Messrs. Milburn and Jeffery, builders and contractors building on the far left of picture.

State Library of South Australia - North Street, Adelaide [B 1816], North Street, west side, between Waymouth and Currie Streets, Adelaide, in September 1914. A group of school children dawdle in the street. The two storey houses on the left were demolished in 1923 and a freestone and brick residence was erected on the site. Left side of these cottages is 79 yards north of Waymouth Street. Approximately 1914. Photographer, Francis Gabriel. Part of Acre 128 Collection.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 24 January 1927, page 11

GRASS FIRE IN THE CITY.

About 5 o'clock yesterday, afternoon a fire broke out in the dry grass on a block of land near the Teachers' Training College, Kintore-avenue. Some damage was caused to ornamental

palm trees and the hedge near the grounds of the Adelaide Drive Bowling Club. The fire brigade quickly quelled the outbreak.

PACKING CASES BURNED.

The prompt response of the fire brigade to a call received from the alarm at Salisbury Chambers, King William-street, city, about 9.30 last night, averted what might have been a serious fire. The brigade found a fire burning in a lane at the back of Collett's premises, Industrial Buildings, and about 20 packing cases were destroyed. Some doors and windows in the vicinity were also damaged. The blaze was soon extinguished.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 24 January 1927, page 8

SUNDAY NIGHT SENSATION.

A sensational was caused in King William street on Sunday night by the clanging of fire bells, and the appearance of several reels, concentrating near the congested corner of King William and Hindley streets. An early alarm and a remarkably quick response saved a comparatively harmless rubbish blaze from what might have developed into a big fire among valuable city properties. The brigade worked so expeditiously that few people realised that there had actually been a fire. At 9.34 p.m. the brigade received a call from the alarm, in front of the Union Bank. A heap of packing cases in the lane at the rear of Industrial Buildings, off Gilbert place, had caught alight. A hose was run out from Gilbert place, and within a few minutes, unwanted appliances returned to headquarters, and the crowd, in the absence of direct evidence of fire, dispersed without excitement. The doors, windows, and fascia boards at the back of the premises of Colletts, Limited, 5 Hindley street, were charred.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 24 January 1927, page 1

BURNING TAR

Excitement in West End

Dense volumes of smoke from a municipal tar cart and flames from a running stream of liquid along the gutter at the corner of Gray and Currie streets at 9.40 o'clock today attracted a huge crowd. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received three calls. The tar cart was badly damaged by the flames. The fire is said to have been caused by the overheating of the liquid in the vehicle.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 26 January 1927, page 11

FIRE AT RUBBISH DESTRUCTOR.

At 12.24 on Tuesday afternoon the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to the city garbage destructor, Halifax-street, where it was found that a bitumen tank was alight. Slight damage was done to the roof of a shed before the blaze was quenched.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 28 January 1927, page 8

CASUALTIES.

FIRE IN CITY SHOP.

A small fire occurred in a secondhand shop kept by Mrs. E. A. Cotton in Rundle street, at about 1.55 on Thursday morning. The fire brigade was called, and the blaze was soon under control. The fire commenced in the front of the shop, burnt through the upper floor, and caused considerable damage to stock, some of which was covered by insurance. Mrs. Catton, who was the only person on the premises, was awakened by a crackling noise, and finding the place on fire, gave the alarm.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 1 February 1927, page 15

FIRE IN VERANDAH.

Shortly before 7 p.m. on Monday the brigade received a call to a fire in the enclosed portion of the back verandah of the knitting factory of Mr. W. F. Suter, Grote-street, city. The contents of the enclosure, which included kitchen utensils, were damaged by fire. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

TOBACCO STOCK SLIGHTLY DAMAGED.

A fire was discovered in the tobacconist shop of Mr. A. Errington, at King William-street, city, at 1 p.m. on Monday. The fire brigade was called, and after a small quantity of stock had been slightly damaged, the fire was subdued.

FENCING AND GRASS DESTROYED.

At 3.49 p.m. on Monday the fire brigade received a call to a grass fire in Kintore-avenue. A quantity of grass was burned, and some fencing was destroyed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 2 February 1927, page 11

MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

Shortly after 9.30 p.m. on Tuesday the Fire Brigade received a call to the motor garage of Messrs. Colton, Palmer and Preston, in Solomon-street, city. A motor car was in flames, and the engine and a portion of the body were slightly damaged.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 3 February 1927, page 4

MALICIOUS FIRE CALLS

Grave Concern Being Caused

VIEWS OF MR. E. FRINSDORF

Malicious fire alarm calls have been occasioning the Fire Brigades Board grave concern. Mr. E. Frinsdorf (chairman of the Fire Brigades Board) said that the frequency of the false alarms during the past year had caused anxiety to the board and its employees. Last year 99 calls had been received from non-existent fires, and during the past fortnight three further calls had been made. Mr. Frinsdorf pointed out that the malicious calls meant that the members of the brigade were out on fruitless missions when their services might be required in assisting in the quelling of real fires. Officers and men ran a great risk in rushing out to attend fires. At the end of the year as a result of a malicious call from Leigh street an accident happened while the brigade was crossing Currie street. A collision occurred, which resulted in an officer being injured and several of the men being badly shaken. The hose carriage was severely damaged. The incident meant that as well as having lives endangered the brigade lost the use of a part of the equipment which was out of commission for a long time. Mr. Frinsdorf said that under the Fire Brigades Act of 1913 the penalty for making a false call was a fine of £5 or imprisonment for seven days for the first offence. For a subsequent offence the penalty was imprisonment not exceeding six months, without the option of a fine. "I hope," declared Mr. Frinsdorf, "that the Government will see its way to increase those penalties." False alarms were the work of hoodlums who in his opinion would benefit by a term in gaol.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 9 February 1927, page 17

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

FIRE IN A RUBBISH TIP

A fire broke out in a rubbish tip on the property of Messrs. R. G. Lock and Co., Willcox-street, city, at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday. A quantity of boards and other inflammable material also caught alight, and as several sheds and outhouses on the property were threatened, the fire brigade was summoned, and the fire was quickly subdued.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 11 February 1927, page 9

CAFE SENSATION.

Ammonia Fumes Escaped.

There was much excitement in King William street, Thursday afternoon in the vicinity of the O'Keh Cafe. At about 5.15 one of the assistants was about to go down into the basement at the rear of the building when he noticed a misty cloud rising up and smelt strong fumes of ammonia. The manager was informed, and an order was given for the shop to be cleared immediately. By that time the effect of the fumes was being noticed in the restaurant portion of the shop, and the people quickly ran out. A woman who was known to be upstairs was missed, and the City Fire Brigade was called when that danger was realized. However, she managed to get out into the shop unaided, and the Fire Brigade was not required. Crowds gathered along the eastern footpath of King William street, as the ammonia fumes could be smelt as far away as Grenfell street. The trouble was caused through the packing of the compressor connected with the refrigerator blowing out. The shop had to be closed for the remainder of the evening, and men were busy at work repairing the pipe. A certain amount of damage was done to food and such like, but it is expected that the shop will open as usual to-day. When the new plant was being fixed into the O'Keh shop not long ago similar trouble was experienced through a faulty washer on the valve of the tank causing a leak, but on the occasion the damage was not serious.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 12 February 1927, page 19

FIRE BRIGADE BUSY.

The Fire Brigade turned out to four small fires and a false alarm on Friday afternoon and evening. While cleaners were attending to a chimney at an unoccupied residence on South-terrace shortly after 1 o'clock a fire started. The brigade subdued the flames before any damage was done. At 1.15 a small quantity of fencing which surrounded a house in Surflestreet off Halifax-street, was slightly damaged by fire. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. The brigade later turned out to a malicious false alarm at Hindley-street. At 7.34 a fire started among a quantity of shavings at the Lion Timber Mills, in Post Office-place, off Franklin-street. The firemen soon extinguished the blaze. In a lane at the rear of the Empire Theatre, Grote-street, a small quantity of rubbish was burned.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 14 February 1927, page 11

SMALL FIRES.

On Saturday afternoon the Fire Brigade received a call to a shop in the Arcade occupied by Mr. J. T. Hearne, jeweller. The outbreak had been extinguished when the men arrived. A gas jet had been left burning and the flame had ignited an apron hanging near by. An occupant of the room above the shop noticed the smoke and put out the fire before any damage was done. Two calls were received on Sunday evening to small outbreaks. The first was at 8.24, when the Thebarton Brigade was summoned to the South-road alarm. A Chevrolet motor car was alight, and before the fire was extinguished considerable damage was done to the car. Its owner's name was not ascertained. Three minutes later the headquarters and Thebarton Brigades turned out to a small fire at the Thebarton Corporation bituminous plant. The outbreak was extinguished before serious damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 14 February 1927, page 9

CASUALTIES.

SPORTS SHED BURNT.

A wood-and-iron shed valued at about £60, erected in the worth-west parklands, in what is known as the bullock paddock, was destroyed by fire late on Thursday night. The shed was built and used by the Robert street (Hindmarsh) Church of Christ Football Club. The matting in another shed close by was also damaged by fire.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 15 February 1927, page 1

DESTRUCTIVE PORT FIRE

Loss by Companies Estimated at £20,000

MILLS OF MR. F. TIETZEL UNDAMAGED

When flames gutted the storage sheds occupied by the Overseas and Interstate Trading Company, Limited, at Port Adelaide late last night large quantities of timber and about 20,000 bags of barley, as well as many harvesters and drills in adjoining premises, were damaged. It is estimated that the complete loss will be £20,000. The premises burned are situated between Sinclair street and the Canal. Excellent work was performed by the firefighters, who used 21 lines of hose in extinguishing the outbreak.

The sheds destroyed are the property of the South Australian Harbors Board, and form portion of what are known as the Canal Stores, which extend for nearly 300 yards along the canal. They contain valuable property, including grain, harvesting machinery of H. V. McKay Proprietary Limited, and timber. On the western end is the linseed oil factory of Meggitt's Limited, and on the east is situated the flourmill of W. Thomas & Co., Limited. Great credit is due to the firemen for the fine save they made, and District Officer C. H. Butler, who was in charge, attributed this to the work of the firefloat Fire Queen, which fed eight lines of hose. "Had that appliance not been available I fear that the whole of the stores would have gone." he said. "The float machinery worked faultlessly, and the Fire Queen has amply justified her construction. It was her first fire." At 11.50 o'clock a stranger at the door of the fire station gave the alarm, and I turned out all appliances, including the Semaphore reel and Fire Queen. Eight minutes later, realising the seriousness of the blaze and the menace to valuable property adjoining the scene of it, the head station was notified, and sent two Dennis motor pumps.

TWENTY-ONE LINES OF HOSE

"The store was well alight when we arrived, and the fierce heat of the burning timber had made the iron roof white hot. Then the roof collapsed, and the flames rose high, giving off great heat. The timber was chiefly Baltic flooring and deals, and blazed furiously. "Twenty-one lines of hose were run out —eight from the float, nine from the three Dennis pumps, and four from water mains. We attacked the fire from all sides with more than 4,000 gallons of water a minute. It was under control by 12.45 o'clock this morning, and at 2.30 the first pump was sent back to Adelaide." This morning firemen were still playing water on the ruins from five hoses, while their weary mates were engaged in cleaning hoses and equipment at the fire station. They had no sleep during the night. Fireman F. S. Kerrish, of Port Adelaide, burned the palm of his right hand through slipping and clutching at a piece of red hot iron.

TIMBER PARTLY INSURED

Mr. G. V. Iversen (managing director of the Overseas and Interstate Trading Company, Limited) said that the store destroyed was leased from the Harbors Board and was insured for £3,000. It was partly filled with Baltic timber valued at £6,500, but insurances did not fully cover the loss, amounting only to £5,000. It was a bond store under control of the Customs Department, as duty had not been paid on the timber it contained. The company would be inconvenienced by the loss, but would continue business, as it had other stocks and mills at St. Vincent street, Port Adelaide, and Woodville. All the timber destroyed was planed and dressed, which made it more valuable. The store was locked up by Mr. C. P. Freeman (Customs officer) at 4.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when everything was in order. Immediately to the south of the timber store, separated from it by strong wire netting, and facing the canal is a sub-division of the structure leased by R. Fricker & Co. It contained about 10,000 bags of barley, valued at £10,000, the property of Barrett Brothers, maltsters. It had been unloaded from ketches. Many of the bags were burned, and today the barley was to be seen in two charred and drenched heaps. It is all thought to be useless for malting purposes.

DAMAGED HARVESTERS

To the east of the gutted structure is the store occupied by H. V. McKay Proprietary Limited. The dividing wall of galvanised iron had collapsed, and the flames damaged 12 harvesters and 20 drills which were stored close to it. In addition, about 20 drills will have to be repainted, as the salt water pumped from the canal by the Fire Queen and motors has affected the paintwork. This morning the large store of H. V. McKay Proprietary Limited was filled with smoke and water from the gutted building was streaming across its floor. A representative of the firm said that the damage done to agricultural machinery by fire and water would be about £4,000 or £5,000, as many of the machines would require to be rebuilt. West of the burned structure is another timber store, which is leased by Mr. F. Tietzel, timber merchant. The firemen made a wonderful save of this, and although the dividing wall collapsed only a small quantity of palings and timber were burned.

MR. TIETZEL CONTRADICTS REPORT

Mr. Fred Tietzel, timber merchant, stated this morning:—"I am greatly concerned by an erroneous report which appeared in the morning press stating that my timber mills with valuable machinery and stock had been destroyed by fire. This has injuriously affected my business and I hasten to contradict it. "My mills are situated in Leadenhall street, about two hundred yards away from the blaze, which was on the property of another firm in Sinclair street. I have two mills and two timber storing areas, and the four sections are divided from one another by streets, so there is little risk of all being burnt out at one time. "My mills were in full swing this morning supplying orders to clients. The only damage done by the flames to any of my timber was confined to a few palings and pieces of other timber stacked near a dividing wall in the Sinclair street store, which contains no machinery. "I have had telephone calls from many people, including one at Mannum, sympathising with me in my supposed loss of plant and stock. I fear that business may be diverted elsewhere through consumers believing that I am unable to supply timber. You can see the position is a serious one and the public should know that my mills are untouched and carrying on business as usual.

TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS

"I have a serious complaint to make against the Semaphore telephone exchange," added Mr. Tietzel, who lives at Largs. "Last night when the fire was in progress members of my staff attempted to advise me by telephone. They tried for half an hour and could not raise the Semaphore Exchange. At last I was awakened and told of the fire by someone who came from Port Adelaide on a motor bus." Mr. Tietzel paid a tribute to the excellent work of the brigade in saving the stock in his store, which was worth about £10,000. "The firemen stood their ground plying their hoses on the flames with their backs against the timber stacks in my store," he said. "The heat was terrific, but by their pluck they stopped the flames from spreading. Today the floor of this store was flooded to a depth of six inches." Mr. George Gibbs (watchman for Mr. Tietzel) said that when he saw the store in Sinclair street was menaced he opened it and drove the delivery vehicles of the firm out to safety. In this manner he saved six motor lorries and one motor car, going back repeatedly in the face of the approaching flames.

POLICE KEEP BACK CROWD

Mr. Arthur C. Roach, of Lendenhall street, Port Adelaide, was the first to see the fire. "I was locking my side gate at 11.45 o'clock last night when I saw smoke and cried to my wife and son, 'I think there's a fire.' We all ran to the corner and saw flames in a timber shed, so I sent my boy to the Fire Brigade Station. The brigade was soon on the scene." Under Inspector J. E. Noblet a large force of Port Adelaide and Semaphore police kept back the many spectators, who crowded round the scene of the blaze in spite of the late hour. Plainclothes Con-stantle T. C. Bjorklund has prepared a report which will be presented to Dr. Ramsay Smith (City Coroner). Dense smoke from the flames thinned by a light breeze, hung over the

Adelaide Plains early this morning and extended from the sea to the foothills of the Mount Lofty Ranges.

SEMAPHORE EXCHANGE

When the criticism by Mr. Tietzel of the Semaphore Telephone Exchange was brought under the notice of the Semaphore postmaster he said that any reply would have to come through the Superintendent of Telephones.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 15 February 1927, page 15

FIRES IN UNLEY.

In Unley on Monday afternoon three fires were in progress at once. The first call was received at 1.41 to a shrubbery on an allotment in Northgate-street, Unley Park, which was destroyed. The land is owned by Miss J. A. Stuckey. While that fire was being subdued the City Brigade turned out to a fire at the rear of the premises of Miss White, in Hatherley-avenue, Unley Park. Grass and fencing were burned. At 2.45 another reel from headquarters was dispatched to a fire on a vacant allotment in Cambridge-terrace, Kingswood. The block is owned by Mr. Maddern, of Rose Park, and a large quantity of dry grass was destroyed. Fencing was also damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 18 February 1927, page 15

FIRE IN A BASEMENT.

A quantity of rubbish caught alight in an unoccupied basement at the rear of Albion House, Waymouth-street, shortly before 9 o'clock last night. The City Fire Brigade attended and subdued the fire before any damage was done.

FIRE AT THE RAILWAY STATION.

Shortly after 8 o'clock last night the western end of the Adelaide Railway station was illuminated by the flames of a fire in a stack of timber which had been used in connection with the construction of the new station. The fire Brigade was summoned and three reels were dispatched. A small quantity of timber was destroyed.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 18 February 1927, page 9

FIRE BRIGADES BUSY.

Several Small Outbreaks.

The Adelaide and Norwood Fire Brigades had a busy time on Thursday answering calls in different parts of the city and suburbs. At 10.41 a.m. the head station attended a blaze at a rubbish tip at Devitt avenue, Firlie. A good save was effected, for several houses were in danger.

At 1.54 the Norwood Brigade turned out to a grass fire at Glynde road, Tranmere, on the property of Mr. J. E. Searcy, of Verco Buildings. The same brigade had in the morning extinguished a fire at Gurr's road, Kensington, on property occupied by Mr. A. Sandford, provision merchant. Little damage was done. A city reel was called out a few minutes before 1 a.m. on Thursday to Nottingham avenue, Richmond. A motor lorry owned by Mr. B. McKee, of Hampstead place, off Carrington street, city, was in flames. It is believed that a defective carburetter was the cause of the trouble. The vehicle was considerably damaged.

A Good Save.

What is considered a good save was effected at Albion House, Waymouth street. The head station answered a call at 8.30 a.m. from Hall Court, off Waymouth street, where rubbish was found alight in an unoccupied basement of Albion House. No damage of consequence was done. An outbreak on the roof of a shed owned by Mr. David Garvis, engineer, off Mary

street, Unley, was attended by a reel shortly before 1 p.m. A spark from a furnace is believed to have caused the fire.

Adelaide Railway Station.

Shortly after 8 o'clock last evening, the City Fire Brigade received a call from the Adelaide Railway Station where an outbreak of fire had occurred among some timber that had been used in connection with the reinforced concrete work. The fire was quickly extinguished.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 21 February 1927, page 1

Sunday Fire Calls

Two calls were received by Adelaide Fire Brigade yesterday. Shortly before 1 o'clock in the afternoon the brigade was summoned to the bakehouse of Mr. H. Backman, in Regents court, off Regent street, city. The flames had a hold on the building before the brigade arrived, and it was severely damaged. At 8 o'clock in the morning the brigade visited a lane off Angas street, where some rubbish was burning. No damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 28 February 1927, page 13

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

TROUSERS ON FIRE.

Late on Saturday night smoke was seen issuing from a window of the Crystal Coffee Palace, Hindley-street. The proprietor stated that a boarder's trousers, which were lying on a chair, had been ignited by a live cigarette end. The fire brigade was not summoned.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 2 March 1927, page 9

SOUTHWARK FIRE.

Confectionery Works Gutted.

At about seven o'clock' on Tuesday evening, the Thebarton Fire Brigade received a call from a fire alarm at Phillips street, Southwark, to the confectionery works of Mr. A. J. Rowe, Port road, Southwark. Flames were issuing through the roof of the main portion of the confectionery department of the factory, when the brigade arrived. Adjoining this department of the building were the machine room and the refrigerating plant, while a bake-house was situated at the rear of the burning building, which was built of brick, and occupied only one story. When the brigade arrived the flames had secured a good hold, and with a view to preventing them from spreading to other parts of the factory the services of a motor pump were secured from the head station in Adelaide. The firemen, working under the direction of Senior Fireman Kelly, did great work in keeping the flames confined to one portion of the factory. The fire apparently started in the confectionery department, where a quantity of partially prepared sweets were stored, and all of these, together with a quantity of valuable machinery, were totally destroyed. The confectionery department was gutted, while the bakehouse and other buildings received a fair amount of damage through heat and water. The origin of the outbreak is unknown.

Damage About £4,000.

Mr. A. J. Rowe said the premises were insured for £12,000 with the Sun Insurance Office of London. He estimated the damage to the confectionery plant to be between £3,000 and £4,000.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 2 March 1927, page 14

FIRE AT UNLEY.

A shed owned by Mrs. J. Wicher, of Fuller-street, Parkside, was destroyed by fire at 12.45 a.m. on Tuesday. The shed and its contents were valued at £30. The cause of the fire is unknown. The Unley Fire Brigade attended, and while engaged on this fire received a call to the butcher's shop of Mr. E. M. Selway, on Glen Osmond-road, where an electric motor was burned owing to its having fused. No other damage was done. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade also attended the second call.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 3 March 1927, page 10

FIRE IN A HOUSE.

The city fire brigade received a call by the West terrace fire alarm shortly after 11 o'clock last night. The bedroom of a private house occupied by Mrs. W. Boyle, in Alfred street, off Gouger street, was found to be alight, but the firemen quickly had the flames under control. A dressing table was burnt, and the contents of the bedroom much damaged.

[From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1927 - 34 Boyley, Mrs W.]

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 3 March 1927, page 15

FIRE IN A BEDROOM.

Shortly after 11 p.m. yesterday the City Fire Brigade received a call to the premises of Mrs. W. Borley at Alfred-street, city, where the front bedroom was alight. Furniture valued at £20, and the walls of the room were damaged. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 7 March 1927, page 15

FIRE ON PARK LANDS.

A call was received by the fire brigade yesterday afternoon to a fire which had broken out in the West Park lands. The flames were quickly got under control and only a small quantity of grass was burned.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 7 March 1927, page 1

Fire in Fruit Shop.

Shortly before 2 o'clock this morning the Metropolitan Brigade was summoned to a fire at the fruit and confectionary shop of Mr. P. P. Kidd at the corner of Angas and Cardwell streets, Adelaide. The shop and living rooms were damaged. It is not known how the fire originated.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 8 March 1927, page 15

CASUALTIES

SERIES OF FIRES

Early on Monday morning, a reel from the Adelaide Fire Station attended a fire at Richmond road, Richmond, where a showman's joy wheel and other effects, insured for £300, were found to be in flames. The fire broke out on the property of Mr. A. B. Beam, but the splendid work of the brigade saved a nearby dwelling, owned by Mr. E. E. Craig, of Cuming street, Mile-End. The Adelaide Fire Station, received a call about 1.30 a.m. on Monday to a fire in the fruit and confectionery shop of Mr C. P. Kidd, at the corner of Angas and Cardwell streets, city. Damage was confined to the shop and living rooms. At 3.21 a.m. on Monday the city station attended a fire at 358 Unley road, Unley, on premises occupied by Mr. Lew Permish, a commercial traveller. A motor car and a wood and iron shed were considerably damaged. Insurance covered £100 of damage.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 9 March 1927, page 13

FIRE BRIGADE CALLS.

In his report to the Fire Brigades Board the chief officer (Mr. J. E. Dickie) states that the number of fire calls during 1926, was 711, an increase of 69 compared with the preceding year. Calls are classified as follows—Serious damage, 18; considerable damage, 69; slight damage, 149; grass and rubbish fires, 270; chimney fires, 22; justified alarms, 25; line faults, 59; malicious false alarms, 99. Compared with the previous year there was a decrease of 10 cases of serious damage, a decrease of 21 of considerable damage, a decrease of 14 of slight damage, an increase of 122 grass and rubbish fires, a decrease of 2 justified alarms, a decrease of 10 line faults, and an increase of 7 malicious false alarms. The most serious fires in the State were:—On January 1 and 3, at East-End Market; on February 2, at Messrs. Thomas & Company's flour mill, Port Augusta; on February 6, at Cameron's boot factory, North-terrace; on February 24, at the Colonial Sugar Refinery, Port Adelaide, and on June 19, at Messrs. Wigg and Company's stationery mills, Southwark. In June and November respectively the river steamers Tyro and Marion at Murray Bridge wharf, were both very severely damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 9 March 1927, page 15

AN EARLY MORNING FIRE.

Shortly before 1 o'clock this morning the City Fire Brigade received a call to a store-room in Hindmarsh square east, which is occupied by Messrs. Oliver J. Nilsen & Co., electric and radio engineers and contractors. A large quantity of electrical goods was alight. The flames were quickly subdued.

Saturday Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1929), Saturday 12 March 1927, page 1

IN THE NICK OF TIME

Gay's Arcade Endangered by Fire

The City Fire Brigade narrowly averted a big blaze in Adelaide at an early hour this morning. In a lane off Twin street at the rear of the premises of S. Pizer & Co., Proprietary, Limited, a number of packing cases caught alight. The flames reached up to an old-fashioned window and ignited the sash, box, and framing, which were completely burnt, and got right through into the shop. The wall was red hot, and the firemen had to go inside the building to prevent the flames from spreading. Gay's Arcade which runs right back to the lane had a narrow escape, the brigade arriving in the nick of time.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 15 March 1927, page 15

FIRE IN MOTOR GARAGE.

A remarkable save from fire at the motor showroom and garage of Maughan Theim Motor Company, Pulteney-street, Adelaide, was made by the city fire brigade shortly after 7.30 p.m. yesterday. On the arrival of the firemen flames were issuing from a locker at the north-western corner of the garage, which contained paints, oils, grease, and rags. The fire was quickly subdued. Within a few feet of the fire 25 motor cars and lorries were garaged for the night, and about 30 yards further away were the showrooms of the company, in which were a number of new cars and lorries. The damage is estimated at £20.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 16 March 1927, page 8

Fire Brigade Practice

"Safety First," Adelaide:—I am sure that most people will agree with me in putting forward a suggestion that the Fire Brigades Board should appoint a time other than about 9 o'clock for the reel to practise. At that hour children are going to school, and it is dangerous for them.

[Mr. J. E. Dickie (Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade) said that all machines had to be on the road under their own power once every 24 hours. No hour was stipulated, nor was any special time adhered to. The machines were not driven at an excessive speed.]

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 16 March 1927, page 14

FIRE AT TORRENSVILLE.

POLISH FACTORY GUTTED.

The manufacturing portion of the Everlasting Polish Company's premises in Torrensville was gutted by fire on Tuesday afternoon. Shortly before 4 p.m. on Tuesday, a phenyl tank on the premises of the Everlasting Boot Polish Company, at the corner of Danby and Northcote streets and North-Parade, Torrensville, caught alight, and in a short time the flames had spread over the whole building and were leaping high above the roof. They were accompanied by dense clouds of black smoke. The building, which was a wood and iron structure, contained a large quantity of inflammable material. The Thebarton Fire Brigade, consisting of one reel and a pump from the Adelaide station, were quickly on the spot. Altogether 1,100 feet of hose was used. The firemen had a difficult task, but in less than an hour they had the blaze extinguished. The water playing on the polishes reduced them to a thick black mixture, and this covered the floor of the building, and ran out into the gutters. The building, which was used for manufacturing polishes, was reduced to ruins. A large part of it collapsed, and the interior was a heap of blackened debris. Houses in the vicinity were not endangered. The offices and laboratories are in the rear, and are separated by a right of way. The factory and plant are owned by Mr. Julius Cohn, leather merchant, of Leigh-street, Adelaide. The manager of the works. (Mr. F. H. Summers) was in the laboratory when a man told him that a tank containing phenyl, a liquid disinfectant consisting largely of oil, was alight. He saw that the fire was extending too rapidly to be extinguished without the assistance of the brigade, and he advised them of the fire immediately.

The portion of the works destroyed, measuring 100 feet by 40 feet, contained a plant of grinders and mixers, and the finished products stored beneath the factory pending their removal to the city office in Leigh-street. The building in which the raw materials are stored, and the office were saved. The damage to the machinery and factory, which were insured with the United Insurance Company, could not be ascertained. Phenyl was being heated in the iron tank where the fire occurred, to make a brew, when the flames leapt up inside the tank. In spite of the efforts of the men to subdue it with fire extinguishers the fire rapidly gained in intensity and spread to the building. Mr. Julius Cohn said it was impossible to ascertain the damage, though it was extensive. Sufficient supplies of polish were stored at Adelaide and Torrensville to carry on until the plant and factory, where ten men were employed, had been reconstructed.

Mr. P. G. Grigg, an electrician, of Read Park, said he was driving along North-parade, when he saw flames issuing from the windows. He went to Taylors-road, and gave the alarm. When he returned the building was well alight. He pulled three or four sheets of iron from the side of the building facing Northcote-street. The flames were going up 20 to 30 feet, and dense clouds of smoke, like those from burning tar, were rising. He noticed that live wires, carrying about 400 volts, were making contact with the iron roof. He disconnected them.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 19 March 1927, page 18

FIRE IN A WORKROOM.

Shortly after 8.30 p.m. on Friday the Fire Brigade received a call to a fire in the workroom of the Economic Pleating and Dressmaking Co., Charles-street, Adelaide, and the contents of the room, except a steam press, were destroyed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 21 March 1927, page 17

A SMALL FIRE.

The fire brigade received a call about 11.48 a.m. on Sunday to the bulk store of Messrs. Clapp & Hawke, hardware merchants, Solomon-street, between Hindley and Currie streets. It

was found that some implement handles and other articles were burning. The fire was quickly extinguished. Little damage was done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 21 March 1927, page 1

FIRE IN GILBERT PLACE

Man Nearly Trapped

A fire which broke out in offices at 20 Gilbert place, Adelaide, about 4 o'clock this morning gutted the first floor and destroyed the fancy goods stock of Collins and Arbon, importers. The amount of the damage has not yet been assessed. The prompt arrival of Adelaide Fire Brigade prevented the conflagration from spreading. Beside the offices of Collins and Arbon slight damage was done to the confectionery shop of Mrs. Duncan and the rear of the premises of Mail News papers Limited, printers. An occupant of the building, whose name has not been ascertained, was sleeping on the premises, and woke up to find himself surrounded by flames. He made a hurried exit, in time to meet three reels from the Fire Brigade, which had turned out to the call. The origin of the fire is unknown. It is understood that the goods destroyed were covered by insurance.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 24 March 1927, page 11

UNLEY FIRE.

SEATON'S FACTORY GUTTED.

Damage of £4,000.

On Wednesday night a fire destroyed practically the whole of the factory of Seaton's, Limited, aerated water manufacturers, Mary street, Unley. The contents were also almost completely destroyed.

The damage is estimated at £4,000. The alarm was given at 10.15 p.m. by Mr. F. R. Seaton, of Birdwood avenue, Unley, who, with his brothers, Messrs. H. T. and A. H. Seaton, carry on the business as Seaton's, Limited. Mr. Seaton was working on a motor car outside the factory when he noticed flames through an open door coming from a quantity of packing straw which was on a staging at the southern end of the building. He called his brothers, who live with their mother, Mrs. F. A. Seaton, from whom they rent the factory, which is at the rear of the dwelling. Mr. F. R. Seaton summoned the Unley Fire Brigade, which attended, under Station Officer Tuck. The motor pump from the Adelaide station was also quickly on the scene. Although the flames had gained a good hold when the outbreak was first noticed, the Seaton brothers succeeded in rescuing a motor lorry which was inside the building. The chemical fire extinguisher was operated, but without success. The building, which was of wood and iron and measured about 100 ft. by 40 ft., consisted of one large room with an enclosed engine house. The floor is of cement and asphalt. When the brigade arrived a fierce blaze had generated in the southern end of the factory, to which the hoses were directed. The firemen entered the building, and one of them was slightly affected by fumes from the gas engine. Despite the utmost effort, the fire swept through the building, and the roof collapsed; but after an hour the constant stream of water had its effect, and there was no danger of the flames spreading to adjacent premises. Shortly after midnight the fire was out. A considerable quantity of stock was stored in the factory, most of which was burnt. The cellars, which also contained stock, are believed not to be seriously damaged, except by water. An expensive gas engine, which runs the plant, a soda water pump, an aerating machine, and a refrigerator were severely damaged. The boiler is practically intact. A motor lorry was partially burnt. It is believed that the damage is about £4,000, but it is not, of course, known definitely how much the machinery was affected. The factory and outbuildings are insured with the Western Australian Insurance Company for £800. The stock is also insured. Before the brigade arrived Mr. F. R. Seaton rescued papers and books from the office. In addition to Messrs. Seaton, four men were employed at this period, the heavy work of the summer season having been

finished. When they left the premises everything was apparently in order. Mr. Seaton was in the vicinity of the factory for some time preceding the outbreak, and was unable to give any reason for the blaze. It appears that the flames generated in the straw. A crowd collected in Mary street, and was diverted or alarmed by the continuous minor explosions of bottles bursting in the heat, mingled with the smashing of glass and the sound of blazing iron and timber crashing to the floor. The police maintained control, and there was no risk of injury to spectators. Seaton's, Limited, have been in business in Unley for 17 years.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 26 March 1927, page 10

TANNERY DESTROYED

Fire at Thebarton

Damage estimated at £20,000 was caused this morning when the two-story premises at Thebarton of Peacock & Co., Limited were completely gutted by fire. The outbreak was first noticed at 4.45 o'clock, and the flames were so fierce that an hour later the factory was a mass of smoking ruins.

Buildings, machinery, finished leather goods, and hides were totally destroyed, also the major portion of 300 tons of bark valued at more than £10 a ton. The premises were partly insured with the New Zealand Insurance Company. A youth, Laurie Quinn, who lives in a cottage about 50 yards from the premises, saw the whole factory alight, and rushed to the nearest fire alarm. Thebarton Fire Brigade was quickly on the scene, and was followed shortly afterward by Adelaide and North Adelaide brigades. In spite of the efforts of the brigades the flames mounted higher and higher, and the roof and floors began to fall. At the time the brigades reached the spot the whole tannery was a mass of flames, the leather within making excellent fuel. Before an hour had elapsed from the time the outbreak was seen the place was gutted.

BOILER FIRES DRAWN

Mr. R. A. Howes, who was in charge of the boilers at the factory, said that it was the practice on Friday nights to withdraw the fire from under the boilers, as no steam was required on Saturday morning. Before he left the works yesterday afternoon he satisfied himself that that had been done. He was certain that the fire had not started in the boilerhouse.

MODERATE INSURANCE

The damage was estimated at £20,000, but the works were moderately insured, according to Mr. G. D. Basnett, managing director of the company. Only about 20 men were employed there, and although they were large premises business had not been conducted on a big scale. He could not say whether the place would be rebuilt until his board of directors had met and decided what would be done. It would take some time probably to establish a similar concern. The only portion of the building untouched by flames was the lime room, where hides are treated. This portion is right on the bank of the Torrens and has little inflammable material in it. There was an estimated number of 4,000 hides in the pits. A few of those on the top will probably be damaged, but it is thought that those underneath will not be affected. Sewing machines for bootmaking and other machinery for the tanning of leather were destroyed with the building. The electric wires connected with the works fell as a result of the fire, and these were still alive when a small crowd of spectators gathered this morning to see the ruins.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 28 March 1927, page 11

HINDLEY STREET FIRE.

Billiards Saloon Gutted.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call about 1 o'clock this morning to a fire at a billiards saloon, at 129 Hindley street. The flames had a good hold on the premises when the

reels arrived, and there was a great deal of dense smoke. The building was soon practically gutted, and during the progress of the fire an explosion of some sort blew out the upper story window glass.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 28 March 1927, page 1

MYSTERIOUS FIRE

Hindley Street Explosion

INQUEST PROBABLE

Mystery surrounds the origin of the fire and explosion which destroyed at 1.15 this morning portion of the shop in Hindley street, Adelaide, occupied by Mr. Parisi Dominico. An inquest will probably be held. The contents, which were estimated to be worth £600, were insured for £380 with the Western Australian insurance Company Limited. The shop is one of nine similar establishments comprising Gladbeams Buildings, a two-story structure on the southern side of the street below West's Olympia. The buildings are owned by City Investments Limited, of which Mr. Walter Ellis is chairman of directors, and Messrs. Parson & Wilcox, agents. They were insured for £10,150 with the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Limited, and the Alliance Assurance Company, Limited. So far as can be ascertained no one was on the premises when the outbreak occurred. The occupant of the establishment, who is in the habit of sleeping above the shop, is stated to have left the building at 10.30 last night, and not returned until after the fire.

Show Window Blown Out.

People in the vicinity were awakened by a loud explosion, which blew the show window of the shop in broken fragments across Hindley street. Glass from back windows was also found in pieces 30 ft. at the rear of the building. How the fire began has not yet been ascertained. When the fire brigade, under Deputy Chief G. P. Cooper, arrived with a hose carriage and two pumps the rooms above the shop were well alight. The firemen extinguished the flames before the adjoining shops, separated only by brick walls, suffered damage. It was an excellent save, for had the blaze extended it is probable that numerous business premises would have been gutted. An inspection of the place this morning revealed that the fire had been confined to the stairway and two of the four rooms on the top floor. The flames did not reach to the shop in which the explosion occurred. This intensifies the mystery of how the window was blown out and a large partition and other woodwork of the shop wrecked. One portion of the ceiling of the shop was burned through, but there were no other charred remains visible in the shop itself.

Fortunate Neighbors

The police and firemen have been unable to find traces of anything which could have caused the explosion. A blind from a window on the top floor was blown 12 ft. and was found by the fire fighters hanging on an electric-light wire in Hindley street. Mr. Dominco is a young Italian who came to Australia four and a half years ago. He has been in business in Hindley street since last September. He conducted a business which embraced the sale of tobacco, cigarettes and cool drinks. He also controlled a billiard table and let beds. Mr. Steve Drikakis, whose cafe adjoins the destroyed shop on the east, and Mr. C. Kaderes, whose tailoring shop is on the western side, consider themselves particularly fortunate to have escaped loss, as neither had his stock insured. A policeman and fireman were on duty at the shop today and refused admission to other than officials. Plainclothes Constable Kennedy will submit a report to the City Coroner.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 30 March 1927, page 20

A MOTOR LORRY BURNED.

Mr. Archie Stewart Thomson, of Hanson-street, Adelaide, was filling the petrol tank of a motor lorry at the rear of his premises when the light from a hurricane lamp which he was holding ignited the petrol vapor. Before the arrival of the Fire Brigade the lorry was considerably damaged. The vehicle was insured.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 30 March 1927, page 13

CASUALTIES.

FIRE IN PIRIE STREET.

At 10.43 p.m. on Tuesday the Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to Onslow Buildings, at the corner of Pirie street and Coromandel place, where a fire, which originated in a heap of packing cases in the backyard had leapt the walls and attacked the premises of H. Silby & Co., motor accessories importers on the ground floor, and the office of the Adelaide Typewriter Company, on the first floor. Quick work by the brigade extinguished the flames, which did only slight damage to both premises.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 4 April 1927, page 15

FIRE AT SOUTH PARKLANDS.

The Fire Brigade received a call on Sunday afternoon to the south parklands, where a small dressing shed was found to be alight. They extinguished the fire, which damaged the floor and destroyed some matting.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 9 April 1927, page 32

CAMERA NEWS



WHERE THERE'S FIRE THERE'S SMOKE. — The firefighters stop work long enough to light up their cigarettes.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 11 April 1927, page 6

FIRE BRIGADES

Volunteer System Opposed

Opposition to the volunteer system of fire brigades has been renewed. Mr. T. J. D. Barker (president) occupied the chair at a large attendance of members of the Fire Brigade section of the Australian Government Workers' Association at the head station yesterday morning. He intimated that the association had re-affiliated with the United Trades and Labor Council and the question of the volunteer fire brigade system could now be dealt with. He hoped in the near future to submit a report on the subject. It was decided to prepare a new log, and Messrs. J. Arnold and F. Harley were appointed to represent the head station. It was also resolved to ask Port Adelaide, out stations, and auxiliary sections each to appoint one representative.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 27 April 1927, page 1

CALLED FIRE BRIGADE

Wanted Box of Matches

Arthur Ingham thought that a fire alarm in Grenfell street, Adelaide, was a match machine, with the result that the fire brigade turned out. Ingham told Mr. H. M. Muirhead, S.M., in Adelaide Police Court this morning that he remembered having been under the influence of liquor. He wished to obtain a box of matches, he said, and thought the fire alarm was a match machine. He remembered interfering with it. Ingham was charged with having been drunk in Grenfell street yesterday and with having tampered with a fire alarm and given a false alarm. Imprisonment for seven days and three days was ordered, the sentences to be concurrent. Mr. H. Allchurch (Police Prosecutor) said that Constable Osborn heard the sound of falling glass and saw defendant, who was drunk, standing in front of a fire alarm in Imperial place ringing the bell. Defendant, against whom there were numerous previous convictions, said that week-end drinking was his failing. In future, however, he intended not to taste, touch, or handle drink this side of the grave. The magistrate observed that defendant had made similar resolutions.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 28 April 1927, page 13

A CITY FIRE.

FINE SAVE BY THE BRIGADE.

As a result of quick work by the Adelaide Fire Brigade shortly after 6 p.m. on Wednesday several large business premises in Rundle-street were saved from being destroyed by fire. An outbreak, the cause of which is unknown, occurred in the workroom of City Fashions, dressmakers and milliners, on the first floor of the building which is attached to the east wing of the large drapery premises of Messrs. Charles Birks and Co. Flames quickly emerged from the rear windows of the workroom, and volumes of black smoke rushed through the showroom of Electrolux, Limited, which is on the same floor, and then through several windows into Rundle-street. A large crowd, chiefly shop assistants from the surrounding business houses, who had just left work, soon gathered. The flames leaped high into the air accompanied by smoke. Three fire appliances were dispatched from headquarters, and in a short time the fire was subdued. On the ground floor of the building are the showrooms of City Fashions. The next building to the left, which is at the corner of Stephens-place and Rundle-street, is occupied by the Aeolian Company, piano warehousemen. The contents of the workroom of City Fashions, which included several machines, benches, and a quantity of material were damaged by fire, and the showroom of Electrolux was scorched by fire and slightly damaged by water. Mr. Reginald Habib is the proprietor of City Fashions.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 28 April 1927, page 1

FIRE AT TANNERY

About five tons of wattle bark and a wood-and-iron shed were destroyed by fire at the tannery of Mr. John Leonard, Dave street, Thebarton, this morning. The outbreak was believed to have been caused by shavings near the furnace becoming ignited. Adelaide and Thebarton brigades were summoned and prevented the fire from spreading. The shed and bark were only partly insured. The bark was valued at between £40 and £50.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 29 April 1927, page 14

Good save by Fire Brigade

Business Firm enabled to carry on

On Wednesday evening last, when the Fire Brigade arrived at City Fashions, Rundle street, nothing but their efforts prevented a serious blaze. Although the fire had only been noticed a few minutes previously, when the brigade arrived the flames had a good hold of the upper floor. By 7 o'clock the fire was out, thanks to the splendid efforts of the firemen. The principal of the City Fashions was loud in his praise of the fine work done in saving the most important part of the premises, and preventing, in addition, what would surely have proved the destruction of a large block of buildings. After inspection of the premises on Thursday

morning it was found possible to carry on business from 1 p.m. in the usual way. The department which has suffered most is the Millinery, many valuable hats having been totally destroyed. In addition, hundreds of hats have been more or less damaged by fire and water. As regards other departments, it was naturally impossible to prevent damage by water, although again the care used by the brigade saved a very large quantity of good stock. This includes goods in all departments. The proprietor stated this morning that he had recently landed large quantities of the latest in ladies' wear in preparation for the Autumn and Winter push, not overlooking the fact that the demand would be greatly increased during the forthcoming Royal visit. It has been decided to start from Monday next a special salvage sale of all stock. Emphasis is laid on the fact that a very large percentage of the goods which will be offered are absolutely unaffected, undamaged, and thereby offer a unique opportunity for keen buyers. Business at City Fashions is continuing precisely as before the fire, and readers are asked to follow next week's advertisements, which will give details of the lines offering. Although the whole week will be given over to the salvage sale, a phenomenal rush is expected, and buyers are advised to shop early, thus avoiding disappointment.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 29 April 1927, page 1

EARLY MORNING FIRE

JOINERY WORKS DESTROYED

Damage Estimated at £3,000

An outbreak of fire early this morning destroyed the joinery works of Mr. C. E. Koch, in a lane off Gilles street, Adelaide. Large quantities of hard and soft woods were burned and the joinery machinery was seriously damaged by fire and water. Mr. Koch estimates the damage at £3,000. The alarm was given to Adelaide Fire Brigade by Constable Stocks, who noticed the outbreak shortly before 4 o'clock. One hose carriage and two Dennis pumps were dispatched. Hose lines were connected with the hydrants in Gilles street and Symonds place. The fire had secured a grip of the building, which was constructed of galvanised iron and wood. The pressure of water was fairly good and the flames were attacked on the north and the west sides. The joinery works are almost surrounded by residences, and the firemen had an anxious time as there was a likelihood of some of the homes catching alight. It was due to the efforts of the firefighters that the blaze was restricted to the works. By 5 o'clock the flames were mastered. The blaze was most spectacular as the stacks of inflammable timber which were stored in high heaps caused the flames to leap many feet into the air. Although the hour was early a large number of spectators congregated to witness the spectacle. People in all the adjacent, houses were called from their beds in case the flames should get beyond control. Mr. Koch stated this morning that no fire had been left on the premises, and he could not advance any theory regarding the reason for the outbreak. There were no boilers at the works, and all the machinery was run by electricity. The efforts of the firemen had saved several stacks of timber, which were un-touched by fire, but they were saturated with water. Mr. Koch estimates that 20,000 ft. of hard and softwoods were stored on the premises, which were only partly covered by insurance. He had a large amount of timber in stock, much of which had been recently received from the merchants. He valued the plant at £1,600. The buildings were insured for £500 and the plant and stock for £1,400.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 30 April 1927, page 22

CITY BLAZE.

King William Street Joinery Gutted.

Fire Brigade's Good Work.

Early on Friday morning a disastrous fire broke out in the joinery works of Mr. C. E. Koch off Gilles street, Adelaide. The large wood-and-iron building, together with valuable machinery and large stocks of timber, was completely destroyed. For a while the blaze was most

spectacular, and could be seen for many miles around. The scene of the outbreak was in a congested area, off Gilles street, and mid-way between King William street south and Symonds place. The building, which was of wood and iron, occupied a large area, and abutted on the back portion of several dwellings. At times it was thought probable that these properties would also be consumed, and only for the quick and gallant work of the firemen the whole of the closely occupied block might easily have gone to the flames.

Firemen's Quick Action.

The Central Fire Brigade received a call from the King William street south alarm at 3.54 o'clock, and three reels were immediately dispatched to the scene. At this time, flames were leaping high into the air, and presented a brilliant spectacle. It was thought at first that the burning building, was the large factory of Holders Motor Body Builders. Limited, which is near Mr. Koch's property. On their arrival, the firemen immediately surrounded the burning structure in an effort to check the flames from spreading. They were hampered at first by a strong north breeze which, however, died down after a time. Six lines were put into play from turncocks in Gilles street and Symonds place. It was, however, impossible to save the joinery, which was completely gutted. Onlookers were loud in their praises of the work of the firemen, and it is considered that they made a remarkable save in confining the blaze to the one property.

An Alarming Experience.

The occupiers of the dwellings surrounding the blaze had an alarming experience. They were quickly astir, and stood in little groups watching the spectacle. The daughters of Mr. H. D. James, of Symonds place, were sleeping in a verandah, but a few yards from the joinery. They awoke to find the building a mass of flames and received a considerable fright as a result. Notwithstanding one of their first actions was to see to the release of some fowls, which were penned alongside the blazing structure. The buildings in Symonds place, which narrowly averted destruction, were occupied by Mr. J. G. Duncan, Mr. Harvey D. James. Mr. T. J. Coombe, Mrs. M. Pearce, and Mr. McLeod. During the fire, Mr. James provided hot tea for the firemen and members of the police force, who helped in the attack on the flames.

Damage and Insurances.

The building contained about 20,000 super feet of hardwoods and softwoods and much valuable machinery; some of the latter it will be possible to recondition. Interviewed on the site Mr. Koch stated on Friday that the plant was valued at £1,600, and the building was insured for £500, but it was impossible to give the value of the stock. The plant and stock was insured for £1,400, and he estimated that the damage by the fire would amount to about £3,000. The building was insured with the Liverpool, London, and Globe Insurance Company, and the stock with the Colonial Mutual Insurance Company. He said he had no idea what caused the blaze. There were no boilers and he depended on electric current for its power. He could not say whether the conflagration started as a result of electric wires fusing.

For the definition of a Super foot of timber –

Sunday Herald (Sydney, NSW : 1949 - 1953), Sunday 22 February 1953, page 13

SUPER FEET

Do you know what the expression "super foot" means?

"Super" is short for superficial or surface measurement. It is based on one square foot of timber one inch thick. A simple method of calculating the number of superficial feet in any quantity of timber is to multiply the length in feet by the breadth or width in feet by the thickness in inches.

Take a piece of timber 4 inches wide, 2 inches thick, and 12 feet long, and see how this formula works out. The length, 12 feet, is multiplied by the width, 4 inches, which

is one-third of a foot, to give us 4. This is then multiplied by the thickness of 2 inches, which means that there are 8 "super" or superficial feet of timber in a piece measuring 12 feet long, 4 inches wide, and 2 inches thick.

This is a useful formula for working out costs, as practically all timber is sold at so much per 100 super feet.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 2 May 1927, page 10

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

TWO SMALL FIRES.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call at about 2.45 a.m. on Saturday to the premises of Messrs. Slater & Company, electricians, Chester-street, off Grenfell-street. A reel was dispatched and it was found that some stock and cases in the basement were alight. A small portion of the floor of the Pirie-street branch of the Commercial Bank was also damaged. The flames were quickly subdued. On Saturday evening the value of the damage was not known.

Shortly after 12 o'clock a small fire occurred at the foundry of Messrs. Hitchcox Bros., Flinders-street. The brigade was speedily on the scene, and the fire was confined to timber in the yard. The damage was not extensive.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 4 May 1927, page 20

CASUALTIES.

A SMALL FIRE.

The Central Fire Station received a call at 7.9 p.m. on Tuesday to a small fire among bags and rubbish at Fletcher's brass founding works in Gunson street, off Wakefield street, city. The brigade speedily extinguished the flames.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 13 May 1927, page 11

CASUALTIES

A SMALL FIRE.

A call was received by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade at about 4.54 p.m. on Thursday to premises in Flinders street occupied by Mr. S. J. Butler, motor mechanic, and owned by Mr. P. Small, of Flinders street. A fire had broken out in the shop, and the contents were slightly damaged.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 18 May 1927, page 12

BLACK FOREST FIRE.

Chair Factory Destroyed.

Twisted galvanised iron and charred wood uprights are evidences of a disastrous fire which occurred at Smith Chain, Black Forest, on Tuesday morning. The premises are owned by Messrs. J. E. Smith and E. A. Amber, who carry on the business of chairmaking in a wood-and-iron shed at the rear of Mr. Amber's home, situated in Fairmont street. The origin of the fire is not known, but the local paper runner, who was on his way to the city at about 1 a.m. on Tuesday, is stated to have been the first person who saw the flames. He called the Unley Fire Brigade by breaking the alarm near by. Mr. Amber was the first of the two partners to be awakened, and he immediately roused his neighbour and partner, Mr. Smith. The fire then had a good hold. It was impossible to tell where it had started— everything appeared to be burning at once. The building covered an area of 70 by 25 ft., and the wood on the premises provided ample fuel. The Adelaide and Unley fire brigades turned out, and worked for about two hours to save the building. Previously Mr. Smith and Mr. Amber had tried to utilize the

garden hose on the fire, but the excessive heat militated against their efforts. When an examination of the building was possible it was seen that nothing of any consequence had been saved. As part of the plant for chairmaking, there were a buzzer, handsaw, circular saw, planer, boring machine, sandpaper drum, and an electric motor. All were destroyed or rendered almost worthless owing to the heat having twisted the beds of the machines. Two motor vehicles—a car and a lorry—were also housed near the shed. The car was left a tangled mass of iron work. Mr. Amber made an attempt to drive it out before the flames reached it, but the heat was too great. The lorry was further from the seat of the flames, but one tyre was all that was saved. Mr. Smith stated that he had had a stock of about 40 chairs in hand, and there was wood that would have sufficed for many more. All these were now among the ashes. About £100 worth of timber was destroyed and about £200 worth of machinery. He considered the damage would amount to about £1,000 all told. The car was insured, but the lorry was not. Insurance covered about £460 worth of stock. Two hands other than Messrs. Smith and Amber were employed on the premises, and it is thought that it will be a considerable time before the business will be resumed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 18 May 1927, page 18

A FACTORY GUTTED

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £1,000.

At an early hour on Tuesday morning the premises in which Messrs. J. E. Smith and E. A. Amber, who trade under the name of Smith's Chairs, together with plant, stock of timber, and two motor vehicles, were totally destroyed by fire.

The Unley Fire Brigade received a telephone message concerning the outbreak and a fire alarm call at 1.49 a.m., but though they quickly proceeded to Fairmont-avenue, at the rear of the Clarence Park railway-station, they found on arrival that the fire had started long before anyone became aware of it, and little could be done then. The building, which was constructed of wood and iron, and occupied an area of 70 ft. by 30 ft., at the rear of Mr. Smith's residence, had only a few days ago been enlarged, the firm finding this necessary to cope with increasing business. Mr Smith could give no cause for the fire. When the building was left the previous evening everything was cleaned up; there were no boilers in the place, electricity being used for power, and he had been unable to trace any possible clue to the fire. Built almost against the rear of the manufactory was a shed of a neighbor, Mr. M. J. O'Shaughnessy, and this was destroyed. Mr. Smith said yesterday that he estimated the total damage at £1,000, which included a half-ton truck and a Buick Four car. He held an insurance policy of the United Service Insurance Company, totalling £460 in respect of the building, stock, and plant. Timber to the value of approximately £120 was burnt. The fire would throw the factory out of operation for nearly two months, and there were many orders in hand waiting to be executed. The damage to the shed and contents belonging to Mr. Shaughnessy is estimated at £25. A bed, two stretchers and several boxes of books were destroyed.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 20 May 1927, page 13

GOVERNMENT WORKERS.

A meeting of the grand council of the Australian Government Workers' Association was held on Wednesday. The President (Mr. T. J. D. Barker) occupied the chair. The secretary reported that a meeting of the fire brigade section would be held at the head station on Sunday morning, and invited the members of the Council to attend. He intimated that the firemen were dissatisfied with their hours, wages, and conditions; but it was expected that the first effort would be for an alteration of hours. The fire brigade committee would recommend the men to ask the board to inaugurate the platoon system. The report was adopted.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 23 May 1927, page 1

FIRE IN CITY

Fire broke out in the building in course of erection for Metters Limited on North terrace yesterday, and damaged the flooring boards on the first floor and the ceiling of the ground floor. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call at 12.38 a.m. A hose was quickly played on to the flames, which were extinguished without difficulty. The prompt arrival of the brigade was responsible for preventing a serious outbreak.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 23 May 1927, page 15

SPRINKLER GIVES FALSE ALARM.

Owing to a false alarm caused by one of the automatic sprinklers in the building, the fire brigade was summoned at noon yesterday to the premises of Messrs. Gordon & Gotch in Currie-street. The prompt arrival of the brigade and the stopping of the sprinkler prevented any serious damage being caused by the water.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 3 June 1927, page 11

GENERAL NEWS.

FIRE ALARM IN RUNDLE STREET.

Excitement was caused in Rundle street about 6.30 p.m. on Thursday by an alarm of fire being raised and the brigades summoned. The fears of the crowd were unfounded, however, as it was discovered that the alarm had been premature. A flashlight photograph was taken in Savery's music store, and the smoke drifting out into Rundle street alarmed a passer by, who hastened to break the nearest fire alarm.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 18 June 1927, page 15

FIRE AT A FACTORY.

Shortly before 10 a.m. on Friday a fire broke out in kapok on the second floor at the factory of John Galligan and Co., bedding manufacturers, Grenfell-street. Before the brigade arrived about 60 lb. of kapok, a number of bales of hair, and some fittings were destroyed. The damage is estimated at £7. The factory adjoins the southern end of the Rundle-street Arcade, and a number of business premises were in danger. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 20 June 1927, page 1

BURNING SNOW

Fused Wire Causes £50 Damage

What might virtually be described as burning snow caused damage to the extent of £50 at the premises of B. Seppelt & Sons, Limited, King William street, Adelaide, at 8.30 o'clock this morning. The window of the firm, which had been decorated to represent a snow scene in an Advertisement was clouded by a smoke screen consequent upon an electric wire fusing and setting alight to window decorations. A picturesque polar bear, decorated with white cotton wool, presented a dingy aspect after the fire. It had been transformed into a brown bear. The Fire Brigade was summoned by Constable Turnbull, and it quenched the flames, which were 2 ft. high, with a chemical extinguisher.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 9 July 1927, page 11

SMALL CITY FIRE.

In Gay's Arcade.

Late on Friday night the night watchman at Gay's Arcade, Rundle street, informed the Metropolitan Fire Brigade that a fire had broken out on the premises. The brigade, on arriving

at the Arcade, found that a fire had a good hold on a room on the second floor, rented by Messrs. Paterson and Branwin, warehousemen. The whole contents of the room were destroyed before the fire could be extinguished.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 12 July 1927, page 1

FIRE IN BOOT SHOP

Three Rooms Affected

Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call of 4.37 o'clock this morning to the boot shop of Mr. E. C. Jarman, Hindley street. An outbreak had occurred in three upper rooms. The rooms, which were not stocked with footwear, were damaged slightly by fire and water. A few pairs of boots were soiled.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 20 July 1927, page 13

WORK OF FIREFIGHTERS

Better Conditions Advocated

UNION APPROACHES BOARD

Mr. Frank K. Niecass (secretary of the Australian Government Workers' Association) writes:— When the people of Adelaide admire those at work on some dangerous fire little do they realise the long hours that the men are on duty and the smallness of their pay. The work of a fireman demands promptness, determination, strict obedience, exceptional courage, and many other special qualifications. The present system provides for three days on duty, with each fourth day off. The hours of active station work are from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., less breakfast and "smoke-oh" times. Employees are liable to be called out at any time during the 72 hours. Should that happen at night, when most calls are received, no matter how long the fire lasts the reels have to be made up ready for use again immediately on returning to the station. Active duty is resumed as usual the following morning. Weekly duty of 120 hours, circumscribed environments, curtailment of liberty, necessity for continual alertness, and other unusual disabilities of employment make the position of firemen unenviable. The men are of opinion that the time has arrived for drastic alterations in the hours. As every fireman in the State is a member of the Australian Government Workers' Association the matter was brought before the union. A secret ballot was taken and resulted in an overwhelming majority favoring the platoon system (shift work), similar to that in operation in Western Australia. This is also in operation in Queensland, and has been agreed to in New South Wales. Under that the firemen work one active shift each day, and after that is completed they are at liberty the same as all other workers. It is felt that this would be beneficial to the institution as well as the employes, for by being released from the environments of the station every day they would return to duty in much better spirits and health, and thus be better fitted to undertake their arduous and dangerous work. An overwhelming majority having decided upon the new system, the Fire Brigades Board has been written to, and it is hoped that the request that it receive a deputation on the matter will receive the favorable consideration of the board in time to place the reply before a special summoned meeting of the men on Sunday, August 7.

[Mr. E. Frinsdorf (chairman of the Fire Brigade Board) stated that he had no comment to make.]

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 21 July 1927, page 15

A FIRE IN A SHED.

The Fire Brigade received a call at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday to a fire in a small shed at the depot of the City Corporation, in Stanford-court, off Wright-street. The contents, which included tar, paint, and accessories, were destroyed. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. Before the arrival of the brigade flames leapt high into the air, and it was feared that several

surrounding houses were in danger. Soon after the firemen arrived, the blaze was extinguished.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 22 July 1927, page 15

A CAR PARTLY BURNED,

A motor car owned by Messrs. A. C. Catt & Co., land agents, was partly destroyed by fire in Carrington-street on Thursday afternoon. The blaze was quickly extinguished by the Fire Brigade. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 5 August 1927, page 15

A FIRE AT THEBARTON.

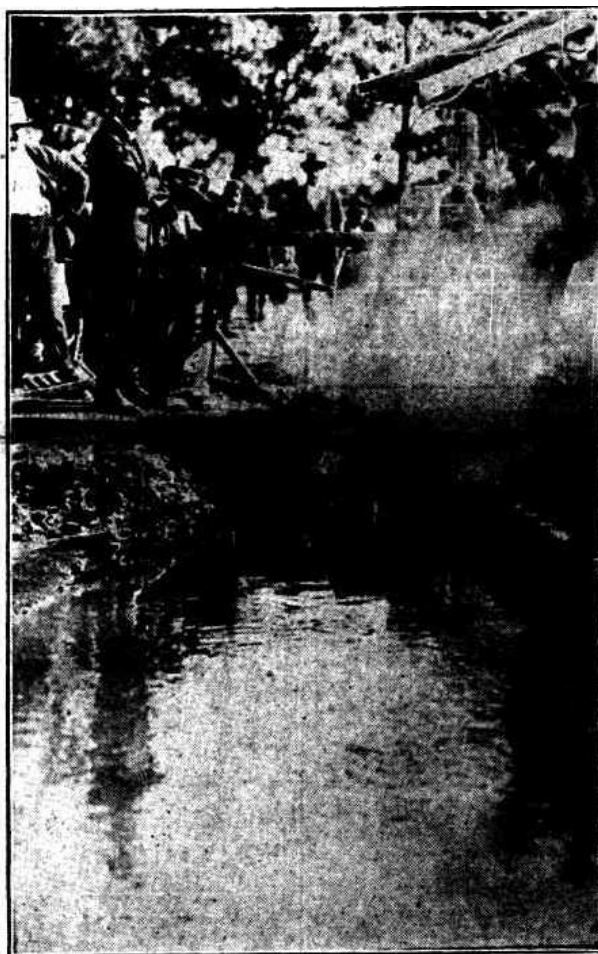
Shortly after 9 o'clock last night two alarms of fire were received at the Thebarton Fire Station. One came from near the tramways bridge at Mile-End, and the other from West-street, Torrensville. Leaving the Mile-End call to the Adelaide station, which was advised by telephone, the local brigade attended the Torrensville alarm, and found a shed alight in West-street, near the corner of Carlton-parade, on the property of Mr. A. J. Standish, a greengrocer. The shed was near the house, and Mr. Standish, who had just gone to bed, was at a loss to know what could have caused the outbreak. It was a large shed with a dividing wall. In one compartment there was a two-horse trolley loaded with fruit and vegetables, and in the other a buggy. A good save was effected by the brigade under Senior Fireman E. J. Kelly, the main damage being confined to one side of the shed and the roof. The trolley and contents suffered severely, and two sets of harness were also burnt. The roof was badly damaged. The stables, which were nearby, and in which there were two horses, were saved. The building was insured, but the contents were not. When the Adelaide Brigade reached Mile-End it was discovered that there was no fire, a line fault having caused the alarm shutter to drop.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 8 August 1927, page 1

WATERMAIN BURSTS

Gouger Street Trench Flooded

Water from a main which burst in Gouger street, Adelaide, yesterday morning, filled the open floodwater trench, and overflowing the southern bank, stretched across the footpath. No damage was done to property, but several residents along West terrace were without water from 10.30 in the morning until about 5.30 in the afternoon. The water main runs parallel with the trench dug for the floodwater pipes. The heavy rains washed away the intervening earth, and the main, which was bereft of support, sagged, and became defective near one of the joints. It is believed that it occurred early in the morning, because when Turncock P. Crowe was communicated with at 9 o'clock the trench for a distance of about two chains was filled. The water, which comes from Happy Valley Reservoir, had to be turned off at Keswick. Arrangements were made with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade to pump the trench free from water. That work was completed during the afternoon, when the defect in the main was remedied. Mr. G. P. Cooper (deputy chief officer) supervised the pumping operations.



WATERMAIN BURSTS IN GOUGER STREET ON SUNDAY

The trench for the floodwater pipes was filled to overflowing, and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade pumped out the water. Mr. G. P. Cooper (deputy chief officer), who supervised the work, is seen in the foreground.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 11 August 1927, page 11

CASUALTIES.

FIRE IN THE CITY.

At about 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was summoned by telephone to a fire in the business premises of Mr. Harry Lyons, land agent and decorator, at 302 King William street. The fire, the cause of which is unknown, was soon extinguished. The contents of the basement were damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 11 August 1927, page 11

FIRE IN KING WILLIAM-STREET SOUTH.

Shortly after 6 p.m. on Wednesday a fire broke out in the basement of the shop of Mr. Harry Lyons, painter and decorator, in King William-street south. The contents, which included wallpaper, petrol, oils and paints, were destroyed. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. The offices and a quantity of expensive paint and wallpaper on the ground floor were slightly damaged by water. The Fire Brigade extinguished the flames.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 11 August 1927, page 11

THE FLOATING PALAIS.

STUCK ON THE BANK.

Contrary to usual custom, "The Floating Palais" this winter has remained in its usual place near the southern bank of the Torrens and has been utilised for matinee and private dances throughout the winter. The river has been empty for some weeks, but recently after the heavy rain a quantity of water came down. This had the effect of shifting the structure, and when the water receded it was found that it was resting partly on the bank. Owing to the slope of the floor it was deemed inadvisable to hold any dances there until the barge was put on an even keel again, and arrangements were made to transfer all engagements to the Palais Royal, which, like the Floating Palais, is owned by Mr. J. L. Herbert, of Brisbane. On Wednesday afternoon it was found that the Floating Palais was stuck fast in the mud and was in considerable danger. Arrangements were made to get at least four feet of water into the river in order to float it off, but by this time it was so deeply embedded in the mud that it was impossible to move it and the water began to gain on the lower deck. An hydraulic pump was set going, but this failed to make any headway against the water, and all the interior fittings were hastily removed and piled on the bank. An appeal was made to the fire brigade for a pumping plant, but the matter was outside its jurisdiction. Later on, however, when the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade discovered the difficulty the management was in, it agreed to stand by with its big Dennis pump if required. In the meantime, an attempt had been made to get the barge off the bank again, and the management had enquired of the Trades Hall, the Methodist Mission, and other likely spots for a gang of men to assist. Unfortunately, owing to the lateness of the hour, there appeared to be no hope of getting assistance from this quarter. Mr. Arthur Ellul, of Hindley-street, who has a number of Maltese lodgers at his cafe, heard of the trouble and notified them, and scores of willing helpers immediately came on the scene. A dozen of the Maltese set to work, and with their boots off they worked strenuously while their compatriots stood by ready to lend a hand if required. All efforts to move the Floating Palais failed, however, and shortly before midnight the sluice gates were opened, in order to drain the river again, and the water began to recede. Soundings will be taken this morning and an attempt made to moor the structure safely. Mr. Herbert, who is engaged in rebuilding operations at his Trocadero Palais, Brisbane, is expected in Adelaide at the end of the month.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 12 August 1927, page 14

FIRE IN A GARAGE.

A fire broke out among a number of private motor cars in the garage at the rear of the showrooms of Rover Car Distributors, Currie-street, shortly after 6 p.m. on Thursday. Two motor cars were severely damaged, and another was slightly burned and damaged by water. The fire started in the middle of about 30 cars and trucks, and owing to the good work of the Fire Brigade the flames were prevented from spreading.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 27 August 1927, page 15

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

Firemen and the Platoon System.

On Friday afternoon the president of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. T. J. D. Barker), the secretary (Mr. F. K. Kieiss), and Messrs. J. Arnold, F. J. Kerrish, and T. Munro (firemen) waited upon the Fire Brigades Board, at the offices in Grenfell-street, and made a request that the "platoon" system should be inaugurated at the City Fire Brigade Station. The men are required to be on duty for three days and off for one, and the "platoon" system means that the men would work in shifts. The deputation asked that the existing conditions should be retained if the new system were adopted. The chairman of the board (Mr. E. Frinsdorf) received the deputation, and the requests were heard courteously. After the men had set out their case, they were informed that the board would obtain as much information

as possible with regard to the system working in the other States, and would notify the deputation as soon as it was in a position to furnish a reply.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 29 August 1927, page 1

ABLAZE IN MID-OCEAN

OTTERPOOL ARRIVES WITH FIRE IN HOLDS

EXPLOSION BLOWS OFF LATCH COVERS

Strenuous Fight by Crew Against Heavy Odds

With smoke issuing from her holds and ventilators the British cargo steamer Otterpool, with 6,500 tons of coal from Blythe (Northumberland) for the Municipal Tramways Trust, arrived at Outer Harbor shortly after noon today. Since August 11 when the discovery in the Indian Ocean of a fire in the coal was followed by an explosion which blew off the hatch covers of No. 4 hold the captain, officers, and crew have had a continuous battle with the flames, which at times leaped high into the air. Their work was rendered more arduous owing to heavy weather, acrid sulphurating fumes, and smoke coming from three holds, impeding operations. As a result of the fire extensive damage has been done to the vessel and cargo. Fire brigades from Adelaide and Port Adelaide, are now fighting the blaze.

When the Otterpool berthed her crew of 33 had a tale to tell of a fierce fight with flames and the elements extending over 17 days in the South Indian Ocean. It was with feelings of great relief that they reached port. Rusted hull and fume-stained deckhouses and bridge spoke eloquently of the ordeal through which the vessel had passed. The Port Adelaide firefloat, Fire Queen, went alongside the Otterpool as soon as the latter was made fast to the wharf, and immediately began pumping water into the holds where the fire was raging. Chief Officer J. E. Dickie (of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade) and District Officer C. H. Butler, of Port Adelaide, were in charge of fire-fighting operations. The Otterpool left Blythe (Northumberland) on June 23 with 6,500 tons of Durham coal for the Municipal Tramways Trust. She called at Durban on July 31 to replenish her bunkers, and it was on August 11, when the vessel was in the Indian Ocean, that the fire was discovered. Members of the crew were shifting bunker coal from the 'tween decks of No. 4 hold when smoke was noticed issuing from the lower hatch. Hoses were run out to try to flood the smouldering portion, but soon after there was an explosion which blew off the hatch coverings.

FLAMES LEAP HIGH INTO AIR

Flames leaped high into the air as gas generated below became ignited. Later smoke issued from No. 5 hatch and hoses also had to be plied there. Three hoses on the vessel were brought into use. In the meantime heavy seas swept the welldeck aft and chafed the two canvas hoses so badly as they were swept to and fro that they were rendered useless. When the Otterpool reached port there was only one leather hose left in use. Following winds had caused the ship to be enveloped in acrid fumes practically ever since the outbreak was discovered. The ship's cook and his assistant in the galley situated close to the seat of the fire had a bad time, but stuck manfully to their task of preparing food. On her course to Port Adelaide the Otterpool would have passed well south of Albany, but it was decided to make for their port, and the helm was altered. The weather was bad, but by the time the Eclipse Lighthouse was sighted near King George's Sound it had moderated, and the fire had been so much subdued that it was decided to head for Port Adelaide. Capt. J. K. Oliver (master) declined to comment on the fire. He declared that he was glad to reach port, and pointed out to a reporter the deck aft, near the mainmast, where six steel deck plates had been buckled by the intense heat. Messrs. F. Heppinstall and W. F. Met-calf (chief and second officers) had a strenuous time directing the efforts of the crew, which fought the fire under great strain for days. Double watches were kept and all on board worked long hours. "We are fairly saturated with the smoke and fumes, and it will take weeks to get the taste out of our mouths," said a sea-man. Mr. R. Clark (wireless operator) frequently sent messages ashore reporting the

state of the fire, and although M. G. Anderson & Co. (agents) were aware of the plight of the steamer for some days they did not make it public. The Otterpool dropped anchor off Semaphore last night, having been 66 days on her voyage. Mr. W. Painter (chief engineer) said that the fire was located above the tunnel which houses the propeller shaft. Every hour the engineer on duty had to traverse the tunnel to inspect the shaft. The heat is intense there, and the bearings are running warm. How the sulphur-laden fumes from the burning coal affected metal was apparent in the engine room and elsewhere, where former bright steel was a dull black leaden hue.

BELOW PLIMSOLL MARK

Many spectators from passenger steamers at Outer Harbor watched the fire fighting operations this afternoon. Much smoke continued to come from the affected holds. In an effort to put out the fire 650 tons of water was pumped into the after-hold. This put the steamer below her plimsoll mark. To trim her and keep on an even keel it was necessary to pump much water into the ballast tanks for-ward. The Otterpool was drawing 27 ft. 3 in, aft when she berthed, and will sink deeper as more water is pumped aboard by the firefloat. After the fire is extinguished and the water pumped out again it is probable that some of the coal will have to be discharged before the steamer can proceed up the Port Adelaide River. Members of the crew said that rain fell during the loading of a portion of the coal at Blythe. It is believed that the spontaneous combustion of damp coal was the cause of the outbreak, as occasionally happens on long voyages. Built at West Hartlepool last year the Otterpool is a steel freighter of 4,867 tons gross and 300 ft. long. She is owned by the Pool Shipping Company of the same port, and usually runs in trans-atlantic trade. Last voyage she took a cargo of wheat from Prince Rupert (Western Canada) to Genoa, and then proceeded to Blythe in ballast to lift her present load of coal.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 7 September 1927, page 9

A CITY FIRE.

Damage at Fashions, Ltd.

Walking along Rundle street early on Tuesday evening, a tram conductor noticed the reflections of a fire through the shop windows of Fashions, Limited, hosiery specialists, of 118 Rundle street. He informed the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and two reels from the city station were soon in attendance. The doors of the building were locked, and the firemen forced the front door and quickly extinguished a blaze which had begun in the shop. The business is owned by Mr. A. M. York, of 201 Hutt street, city. When the brigade arrived on the scene the fire had a good hold, and it was due to the fine work of the firemen, under Station Officer Griffin, that a good save was effected. If the fire had not been noticed at an early hour adjoining premises would probably have been placed in grave danger. Portion of the shop and contents were damaged, but the actual amount could not be obtained, although it was unofficially stated last night that the damage ran into some hundreds of pounds. The origin of the fire it not known. The contents were insured with the Alliance Assurance Company, of Grenfell street, Adelaide.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 16 September 1927, page 15

TAR CART ALIGHT.

When a Kensington-bound tram struck a City Council tar cart in Hindmarsh-square at 4.20 p.m. on Thursday ashes fell from the furnace and ignited the tar. The flames quickly spread to the roadway, and a dense column of smoke arose. Mr. G. Harrison was the driver of the tar cart, and Mr. E. Elliot was the ganger in charge. Only slight damage was done to the tar cart and the tram, and the tram standard in the centre of the square was blackened. The Fire Brigade was called out, and soon quelled the outbreak with the aid of a hose.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 16 September 1927, page 8

BITUMEN FIRE.

Excitement was caused in the centre of Hindmarsh square at about 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, when the air was filled with dense black smoke from bitumen burning on the road. Workmen had been engaged in patching the road adjacent to the tramlines when the tap of a 500-gallon bitumen wagon, belonging to the Adelaide City Council came adrift, and the contents squirted out on to the roadway, at the same time catching alight from its contiguity to the fire door. The horse was immediately released, and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade quickly extinguished the flames, which by the time the brigade arrived, covered a large area, but did little damage to the roadway. The scene attracted a very large crowd which did not disperse for some time, and traffic was somewhat congested. Two of the men working on the wagon, who stopped the flow of bitumen by stuffing up the opening with a bag, received minor burns on the arms.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 17 September 1927, page 10



ROAD ON FIRE.—Liquid bitumen accidentally flowed from a bitumen wagon at Hindmarsh Square on Monday afternoon and caught fire. The road blazed fiercely until the Fire Brigade put out the fire.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 24 September 1927, page 14

GENERAL NEWS.

FIRE IN PARK LANDS.

The City Fire Brigade on Friday afternoon extinguished a small fire in a shed owned by the Adelaide City Council in the south park lands. The structure is leased by Holden's motor body builders. A portion of the flooring was damaged.

Fire at King's Theatre, King William Street.



State Library of South Australia - King William Street, Adelaide [B 1827], Corner of King William Street and Carrington Street, in February 1911. The King's Theatre has just been opened. The extreme left is 35 yards north of Carrington Street. Approximately 1911. Photographer, Francis Gabriel. Part of Acre 452 Collection.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 27 September 1927, page 9

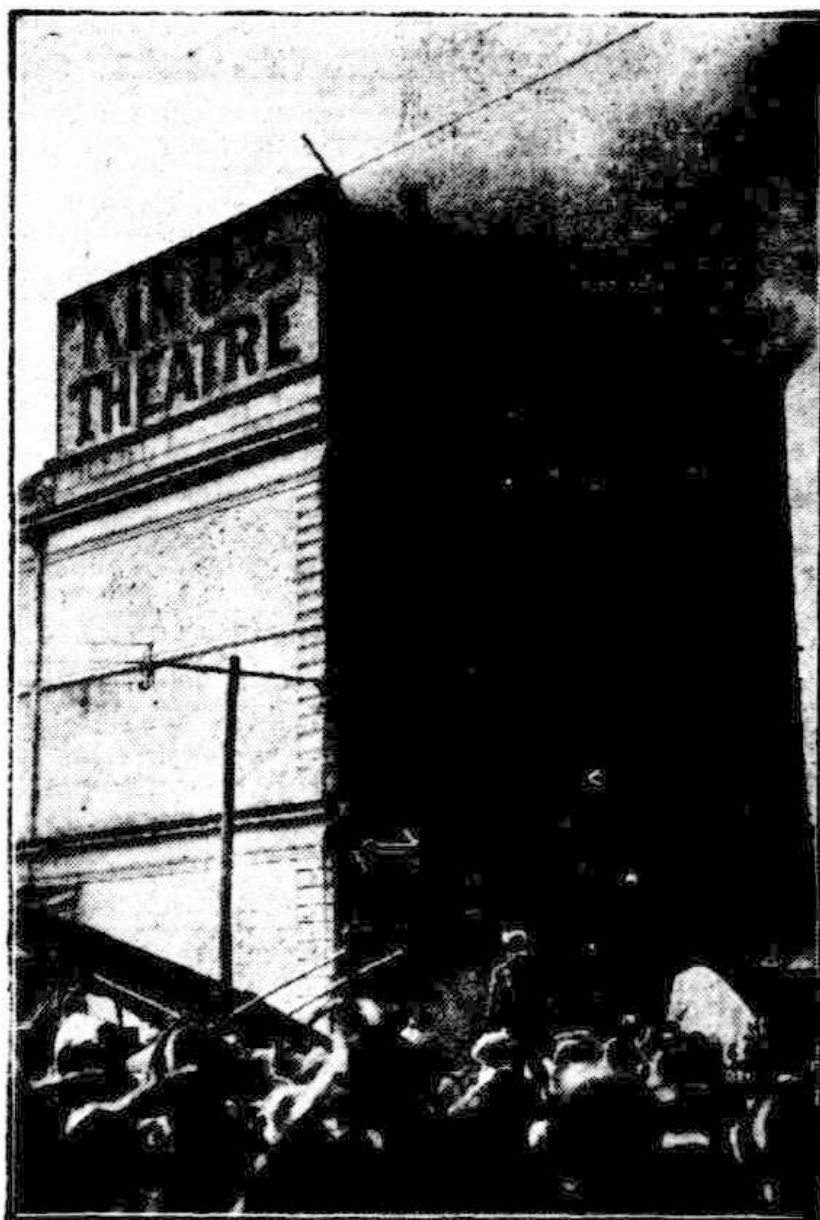
KING'S THEATRE ABLAZE.

Brigade's Smart Save.

Prompt action by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade prevented a serious fire when the rear part of the King's Theatre, King William street south, was seen burning furiously shortly before 5 p.m. on Monday. In answer to a telephone summons, two reels sped towards the theatre, from the rear of which flames were shooting, and thick smoke was rising. From all directions people ran to the spot, but the police enabled the firemen to get the engines in position, and water was soon being played on the roof from a ladder nearly 70 ft. high. By this time the crowd had greatly increased, and women screamed as a large piece of burning woodwork and guttering fell from about 60 ft. on the helmet of a fireman who was forcing an entry below. It was not long before the fire was completely under control. At 5.30 p.m. the first machine left for the station. The dressing rooms and stage fittings, including a piano, were burnt. The seats in the front row of the stalls were destroyed, and others as far as 10 rows back scorched. The fireproof curtain was up. The ceiling of the auditorium was badly damaged, and in one place was alight. As the hose was turned on it a large china shield to an electric light fell from the ceiling, and missed a fireman by inches. The firefighters were under the charge of Station Officer Cooper. The theatre is owned by Majestic Amusements, Ltd., and is insured, but the extent of the damage has not yet been estimated. Two amateur performances, "Abou Hassan," and "Puss in Boots," which were to have been produced there to-night, on behalf of the Limbless Soldiers' Association, have been postponed indefinitely. It is reported that stage properties belonging to the association were destroyed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 27 September 1927, page 18

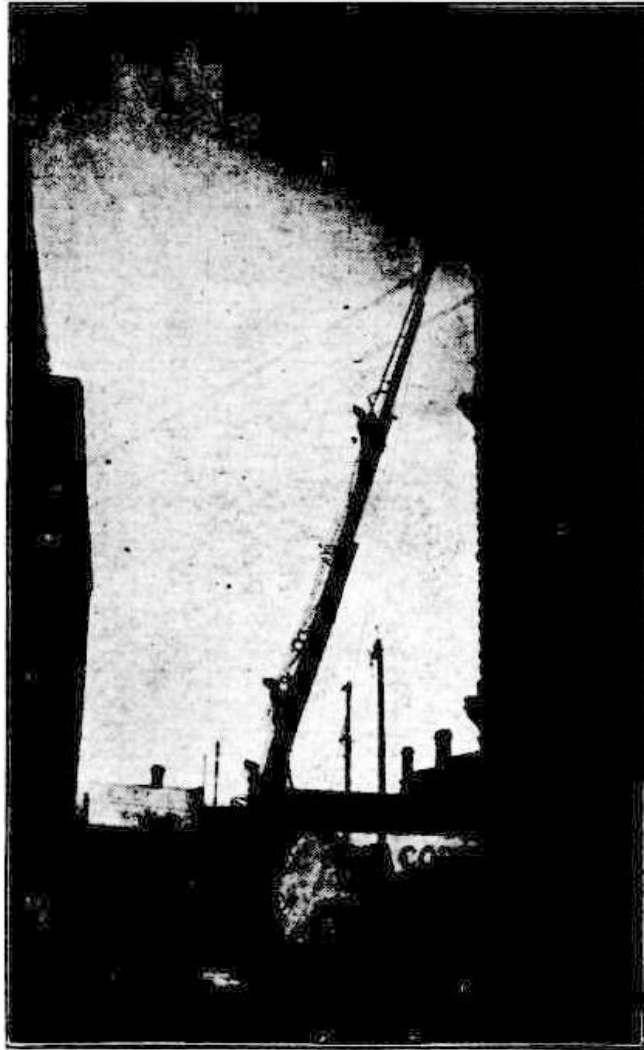
KING'S THEATRE ON FIRE.



BRIGADE'S GOOD SAVE. Late yesterday afternoon volumes of smoke were seen pouring from the roof of the King's Theatre, in King William-street. The Fire Brigade responded promptly to the alarm, and effected a splendid save. The stage and interior generally, together with the roof, were considerably damaged. F. M. Gray, photo.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 27 September 1927, page 12

KING'S THEATRE ABLAZE.



Shortly before 5 p.m. on Monday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was summoned by telephone to a fire at the King's Theatre. The above photograph was taken a few minutes after the arrival of the brigade, A fireman at the top of a 70-ft. ladder is seen playing water on to the flames issuing from the rear of the theatre. A full report of the fire appears elsewhere.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 1 October 1927, page 1

AGAINST THE FIRE DEMON

Firemen Fight While They Work and Play

DISCIPLINE AND ORGANISATION FOR SAFETY

Clang goes the fire alarm, and clang, clang, clang go the fire reels through city streets. Fire! Every person turns to watch the gallant firemen swing past, and every person visualises the battle which lies before them.

When the alarm bells are silent, however, and when the noisy fighting appliances are out of action, the firemen all day, and every minute of the day, still wage war against their eternal foe. Organisation and discipline play as big part in the control of South Australian fires as do axe and hose, and fires are conquered just as surely in the head-quarters of the South Australian Fire Brigade, Wakefield street, and in other suburban and country fire stations, as they are upon the more spectacular battle fields of raging fires.

FIRST CATCH YOUR FIRE

The first thing a fireman has to do is to find the fire he is to extinguish, and to find South Australian fires the firemen of the State have built up an elaborate but simple system, whereby the location of a fire can be noted and broadcast to the eager firemen in an incredibly short period. The person who breaks a fire alarm and turns its handle in South Australia starts something. The act of turning the handle of a fire alarm in a city street drops a shutter upon a switchboard in the watchhouse of the brigade headquarters, and the dropping of that shutter simultaneously brings about the dropping of three more shutters which set every bell, gong, and siren in the station in violent motion; light every light in the building; and bring every man into an allotted position. Men or women who telephone the fire station about a fire set the same machinery into motion, the only difference being that their method takes a few seconds longer. In the watchhouse of the brigade night or day there is always one trained man, and if notification of a fire comes to the brigade by telephone all he has to do to set the wonderful firefighting machine of which he is a unit into motion is to press a button, dash to the door, and shout the kernel of the message he has a few seconds before received over the wires. Most alarms come to the fire station in Wakefield street either through fire alarms or the telephone, but most big city buildings have private alarms connected directly with the station, and are operated mechanically.

EVERYTHING HAS ITS PLACE

Once the location of a fire is known the next thing is to get there as quickly as possible. In the main hall of the fire station there is a board upon which, each morning, names are indicated, and upon which each day every fireman must gaze. This board is the duty board, and upon it is marked the task and riding position of every man of the firefighting force. Each man has a set peg upon which to hang his helmet, axe, and tunic, and a space set apart on which to place his fire boots, so that when the alarm bell rings and the firemen rush to follow the dictates of the duty board there is a minimum of confusion and a maximum of speed. Including officers, there are 41 fire-fighters at the head station in Wakefield street, and the riding force of the numerous appliances is about 23. Though at times many of the men are yards away, and perhaps asleep when the bells ring, the average period taken to turn out is about 40 seconds. In some cases appliances have been dispatched within 10 seconds of the clanging of the alarm. Though, in the old horse-drawn brigade days, the methods to ensure a quick turnout were more complicated, the coming of the motor vehicle has not brought about any great saving in time in the fire station. The old horse brigades were capable of turning out almost as quickly as the motor appliances of today, but upon the road a great saving in time is shown by the motor vehicles. All South Australian fire appliances are now motor propelled. For some years after the last horse machine was in operation at Wakefield street, Barney, a famous fire brigade horse, was stabled on the premises, but Barney died on November 4, 1924, at the age of 40 years, 22 of which were spent as a firefighter. All that remains at headquarters to remind firemen of the old days is a photograph or two, and memories. In addition to the firefighting force the Wakefield street station carries a special staff of mechanics, and electricians. These see that the mechanical firefighting devices are kept in perfect order. Highly trained officers of many years' experience see that the persons who make use of these devices are trained to get the best out of them. A fireman must have special qualifications. He must have intelligence, courage, and strength, and what is more must prove that he has these qualities before he can become a fireman. The raw recruit aspiring to become a fireman has the acid test applied early in his career. He must pass an educational and medical examination, and on his first day of duty, rises at 6.45 a.m. and then almost immediately is asked to jump from a balcony or roof into a canvas sheet held below. If he comes through this test he must then single handed extend and operate the big ladder on one of the appliances. In this way his courage and strength are gauged an hour after his entry into the ranks of the firefighters. Many men fail to pass one or other of the tests. Jumping from a height into a sheet below is one of the routine drills of fire-men, and for anybody who may at some time or other be called upon to make a leap from a burning building, the correct method is to jump so as to land in a sitting position and with muscles relaxed.

FIREMAN'S DAY

Fire is the fireman's fight, and all the devices and mechanical contrivances in the world cannot remove the personal element from the effective control of fires. For that reason great care is taken by those in control of the fire fighting forces to see that their men are highly trained and efficient. When not riding their clamoring appliances, guiding jets of water, or hacking with axes amid the fire and smoke, the fireman goes through a rigid daily routine to prepare him against his next meeting with the fire demon. The fireman's day is divided into three sections, and something of the war against fire which is waged within every fire station daily can be gauged from a recapitulation of the duties of any ordinary fireman at the Wakefield street station. Here is a list of his duties: — (Continued on Page 3).

AGAINST THE FIRE DEMON

(Continued from Page 1)

ACTIVE PERIOD

6.45 a.m.— Rising bell.

7.0— Muster. Roll call, start work.

7-8—Drivers test appliances on road. Drill classes. General station work.

8-9— Breakfast and inspection of bedrooms.

9.0— Roll call.

9.11—Drill classes, and repair jobs around station.

11-11.15— Stand easy.

11.15 a.m.-l p.m.—Drill classes and general station work.

PASSIVE PERIOD

1-8 p.m.—During this period the firemen may be called upon to do urgent work, but though they can indulge in games and other recreations they must not leave the station.

STANDING BY PERIOD

8 p.m.-7.45 a.m.— During these hours fireman may play games or follow other recreations, and may sleep, but they must not leave the station. Firemen of the Wakefield street brigade are upon duty for 24 hours of the 24. For three full days they are not allowed to leave the station, but after three days' duty are allowed 24 hours' leave.

CAMPAIGN OF PREPAREDNESS

When the fire appliances — there are no fire reels now — are on their way to a fire each man has a duty to perform. The man who sits at the back of the appliance must keep his eyes upon the roadway behind the speeding vehicle, and the firemen on either side upon the roadway at the side, to see that nothing is dropped. It is the duty of one man to ring the gong incessantly, while the driver's task is to get to the fire as quickly as possible, and safely.



CHIEF OFFICER DICKIE, in charge of the Metropolitan Brigade.

That fire engine which misses a pedestrian by a few inches is driven by an expert, and if the pedestrian holds his breath as the engine whizzes round a corner he does so unnecessarily. The men who drive fire appliances, and those who ride upon them, are highly trained, how

highly and thoroughly can be realised by a study of the following summary which gives some of the drills and tests to which South Australian firemen are subjected: —

Hose drill.
Lifting and carrying drill.
Instruction in carrying insensible persons down ladders.
Making chair, knots, and other knots, used in firefighting.
Pump drill.
Ladder drill.
Smoke helmet and jacket, and respirator drill.
Sheet jumping drill.
Instruction in the action of certain chemicals.
general phases of firefighting.
Physical drill.

FIREMAN'S SATIRE

Clang, clang, clang! The fireman on his rushing motor appliance. And among the smoke and grime of the fire, is a spectacular and dramatic figure. Unknown at daybreak, he may be a national hero at sunset, but according to the firemen themselves, when the smoke of the battle has cleared away, the work of the fireman is sometimes forgotten. On the walls of the Wakefield street station is the following framed reminder to all who care to peruse it: —
"When fire is cried, and danger nigh God and the fireman is the people's cry. But when 'tis quenched and all things righted God is forgot, and the fireman slighted." It is the fireman's unobtrusive way of reminding a careless public that he still fights while he works and plays.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 5 November 1927, page 4

SMALL CITY FIRE

Shortly before 11 o'clock tonight the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to Gray street, Adelaide, between Waymouth street and Hindley street, and on arrival found a small refreshment shop owned by Mrs. Mahoney on fire. The flames had a good hold and the contents of the shop were completely destroyed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 7 November 1927, page 11

A FIRE IN THE CITY.

At 10.59 p.m. on Saturday the fire brigade received a call to a shop in Gray-street, city, occupied by Mr. A. Nearmy, a hawker. The fire had a firm hold before the engines arrived, and shop fittings and goods to the value of about £400 were destroyed.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 9 November 1927, page 1

MOTORS ON FIRE

Brigade Not Wanted

The Fire Brigade was summoned to motor cars which were on fire, but when it arrived its services were not required. The first call was to Hyde street, Adelaide, where a motor car owned by Crooks and Brooker, of Rundle street, had caught alight when the petrol tank was being filled. The fire was effectively smothered with a bag. The motor car of Mr. H. M. Waterman caught alight in Hindley street, but he, too, was able to extinguish it himself. He had stopped the engine, when he noticed smoke coming from under the bonnet. The brigade was called but when it arrived Mr. Waterman had put out the fire with some water. At 11.20 o'clock the Fire Brigade was called to the corner of King William and Carrington streets, where a motor car owned by Mr. W. H. Pridham, of the Thistle Bakery, Carrington street, Adelaide, and driven by Mr. Sydney Jones, of Shipster street, Torrensville, was on fire. Flames and smoke were issuing from underneath the bonnet. The fire was extinguished with

chemicals. The alarm was given by the driver, who said that a backfire occurred as he was turning the corner. A report is being prepared by Constable H. Riley.

Cases Burned

Shortly after midday today packing cases and straw in a yard at the rear of the premises of the Waymouth Motor Company, Gilbert street, Adelaide, were discovered alight. The fire had a good hold on the wooden crates and fence when the brigade arrived. Flames leaped high into the air, but were quickly extinguished. It is not known how the fire began.

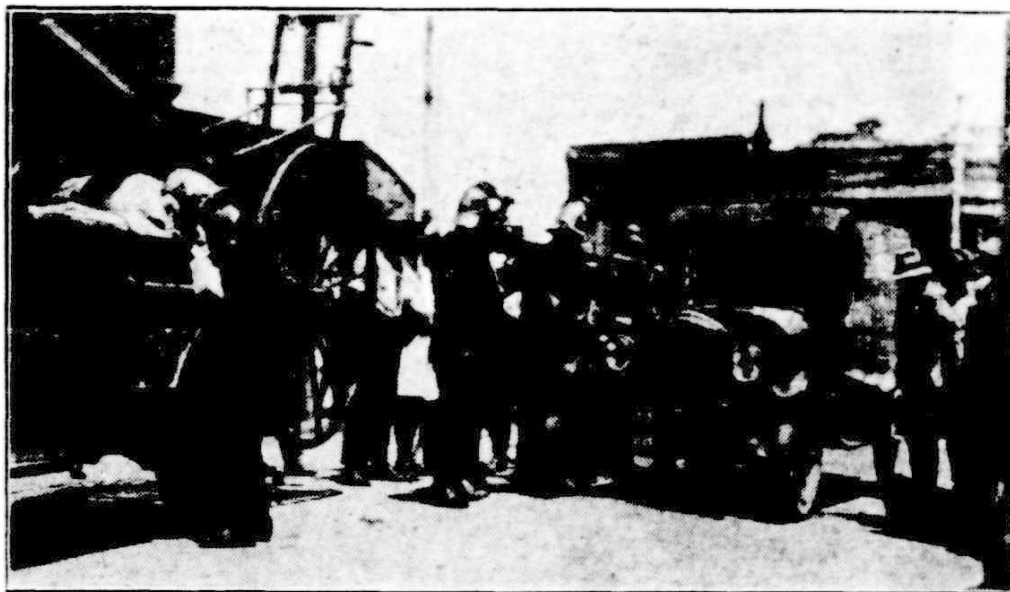
Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 9 November 1927, page 15

GRASS FIRES.

The Unley Fire Brigade received a call yesterday morning to a grass fire on a vacant allotment in George-street, Hyde Park. A large quantity of grass and a paling fence were destroyed. On the vacant property of Mr. A. Mackey, at Chicago, yesterday afternoon, 35 acres of grassfeed were destroyed by fire. Assisted by residents, the North Adelaide Fire Brigade extinguished the blaze. The Fire Brigade on Tuesday afternoon received a call to Waymouth-street, where on a vacant block of land next to the Launceston Hotel grass was burning. The blaze was extinguished before any damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 10 November 1927, page 10

MOTOR ABLAZE IN CARRINGTON STREET.



The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was called to three burning motors on Wednesday morning. The above snap-shot shows the firemen just after having extinguished flames on a motor van of the Thistle Bakery, which caused excitement when it caught alight in Carrington street alongside the King's Theatre.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 10 November 1927, page 1

Small City Fire

Summoned from the Light Square alarm, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade went to a house at 179 Currie street at 9.11 this morning. Sparks from a copper had set the rear portion of the premises alight, but the blaze was extinguished in a few minutes, resulting in little damage. The house was occupied by a foreign woman.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 10 November 1927, page 13

FIRE ON TORRENS BANK.

On Wednesday night a fire broke out in the grass in the Railway Department property on the bank of the Torrens at the rear of the Adelaide Jail. The City Fire Brigade speedily extinguished the blaze.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 10 November 1927, page 9

GRASS FIRE MENACE.

INCREASE EVER YEAR.

The old adage anent "Big oaks from little acorns grow" can appropriately be adapted to cases of fire, for some of the worst conflagrations in history have grown from the smallest beginnings. In this connection, the growing menace of grass fires in the Adelaide metropolitan area is a subject meriting serious consideration from local governing bodies, owners of property, and landholders. A representative of The Register took up this subject on Wednesday with the chief officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (Mr. J. E. Dickie), and although, with the alarm bells and siren going off, and appliances roaring out at intervals seemingly of only a few minutes, the time was hardly appropriate, much interesting information and advice were secured.

The following figures showing the steady increase in the number of grass and rubbish, fires in the metropolitan area, for instance, give an idea of the necessity for legislation or bylaws to cope with the position:—

| Year. | Grass | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Total Calls. | or Rubbish Fires. |
| 1923 | 421 | 64 |
| 1924 | 432 | 85 |
| 1925 | 642 | 148 |
| 1926 | 711 | 270 |

It will be seen that the number of grass fires has increased out of proportion to the total number of outbreaks of all kinds, and this despite the fact that each year, due to building operations and greater settlement, there must automatically be fewer allotments of vacant land. The trouble is considered to be largely due to the fact that there is no legal obligation, under the Fire Brigades Act, upon land-owners to burn off or clear up grass on their properties, however dangerously situated they may be. Even with the few days of hot weather experienced in Adelaide this week, brigades have been called upon to combat grass fires which might have caused untold damage if prompt notification had not been given.

Systematic Clearing Necessary.

The danger is intensified when what is remembered that, in many cases grass fires occur at spots where water, particularly a pressure of water, is difficult to obtain, or awkward to get at so far as a fireman's hose is concerned. Brigades are specially equipped with beaters, resembling a long wire broom, to deal with grass fires, but with high grass well alight over a large area, the task of successful beating is most difficult.

..Continued on page 12.

Continued from page 9.

"Owners of such property," said Mr. Dickie to the writer, "if they are unable to clear off the land properly, should at least burn a 10 ft. break around fences or outbuildings. If they wish to burn off the grass they obtain a permit from the local corporation, and lodge it at the nearest fire station beforehand, so that if it gets away from them we are forewarned." On it being mentioned to Mr. Dickie that corporations apparently possessed the power to make bylaws

which would cope with the menace, he gave as his opinion that most of it would be overcome if householders were required, at any time when the corporation or council inspector or surveyor made their inspection, or when a notice was inserted in the press, to burn or clear off their land when it began to dry up in the summer months. The metropolitan area at the present time abounds with danger spots of this nature. A night or two ago grass blazed furiously in a vacant block between Currie and Waymouth street west, in the midst of thickly congregated dwellings, and on Tuesday the Unley Brigade was called upon to stop a fire in a paddock of unusually high, thick grass among residences, and adjacent to a chaff mill. On a Sunday afternoon some years ago, one of the worst grass fires ever known in Adelaide occupied the most strenuous efforts of firemen at the rear of the West Terrace Cemetery. This same spot, as well as a portion inside the cemetery, is to-day, in a condition which should cause grave concern to the authorities, and the fact that it is difficult to tackle from a fireman's point of view is shown by the circumstance that when the previous fire broke out 1,100 ft. of hose had to be used to get to it. There are acres of grass in the vicinity of the Bay road, which is usually a source of numerous outbreaks. Dry Scotch thistles, which comprise one of the worst forms of grass fire menace, are not so numerous as at one time, but are still likely to occupy the attention of professional firefighters. As one fireman remarked on Wednesday, "We are going to get a tent, and camp on the spot this summer."

Keep Motors Clean.

Referring to the unusual experience of three calls being received yesterday in succession to burning motor cars, one of the most experienced firemen in Adelaide stated that he could not remember a similar instance in Adelaide of such a "hat trick." This led The Register representative asking Mr. Dickie as to whether motorists could take precautions to avoid such damaging outbreaks. "Most of those fires," he replied, "begin under the bonnet, either as the result of backfires, or electrical short-circuiting or fusing. Therefore motorists should keep the engine as clean as possible; they should clear off all oil, grease, and fluff, particularly near the carburetter, thereby giving the flames nothing to feed on. Also, a good chemical fire extinguisher has saved many cars." In conclusion. Mr. Dickie mentioned again the important factor of the earliest possible notification being given of a fire. "Time saved," he said, "is the fireman's greatest friend, and also the greatest friend of the general public."

FIRE PREVENTION.

The Municipal Corporations Act says no person shall stack or pile in the open air, or store for sale within any municipality any hay, straw, or thatch, except in premises licensed, or authorized by the council. Penalty, from 5/ to £10. No person shall allow any chimney flue of the dwelling house or other premises occupied by him within any municipality to take fire by reason of having become foul. Penalty, from 5/ to £5. The following is a City Council bylaw:— No person shall light any bonfire, tar barrel, or firework, upon or within 60 yards of any public or private street, or any public place within the city. No person shall make or light any fire in the open air in any place within the city without written permission from the Town Clerk. No person shall deposit any wood shavings in any building whatsoever situate at a less distance than 20 ft. from any adjoining land, street, public place, or building.

Fire at Slatters' Boot Factory



State Library of South Australia - Halifax Street, Adelaide [B 2658], Halifax Street, Adelaide, north side, taken on April 8th, 1925, and featuring Slatters' boot factory, soon after its completion. On the left is Surfle Street, and Sydney Place is towards the right. The frontage of the building is 47.5 yards, and its left side is 13.5 yards east of Surfle Street. See B 6715 for the 1933-4 enlargement of the factory. For a view of the ivy covered cottage on the left, taken in 1954, see B 12864. 1925. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 525 and 526 Collection.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 10 November 1927, page 13

FIRE IN THE CITY,

A GOOD SAVE.

INCENDIARISM SUSPECTED.

The boot factory owned by Slatters, Ltd., in Halifax-street, would have been burned down and 75 people thrown out of employment last night but for the prompt action of the Fire Brigade, who had the fire under control four minutes after the call was received.

At 9.33 o'clock last night a call was received by the Fire Brigade to Slatter's, Ltd., boot factory in Halifax-street. One appliance, in the charge of Station-Officer Griffin, was dispatched, and on arrival at the scene it appeared as if the whole of the interior of the factory was ablaze. After forcing an entrance, the firemen discovered that the only thing that was burning was a bag of leather scraps, standing on the floor close to a heap of wooden boxes, filled with rubbish. The hose was played on it for a while and then it was carried out into the gutter. All this occurred within the space of four minutes. The managing director of the company, Mr. H. H. Slatter, was informed by telephone and arrived on the scene about ten minutes after the fire had been put out. He had to come from Glen Osmond, and discovered at the last minute that his battery was run down, to that he was obliged to drive in without lights. On inspecting the spot where the fire had broken out he expressed the opinion that it was a "put up job." A thorough examination of the premises was made, but every door and window was secured. One of the employes stated that the bag had been used on Tuesday to mop up some linseed oil that had been spilt on one of the benches nearby, but it was considered unlikely that this had had anything to do with the outbreak. Mr. Slatter was inclined to suspect that it had been the deliberate action of some person, but there was nothing definitely to indicate this, and the official cause of the fire was given as unknown. Mr. Slatter stated that the factory was working

at its utmost capacity filling Christmas orders, and that he employed about 75 people, including about 30 girls. Nobody was allowed to smoke in the factory, and there was no fire used anywhere near the spot where the blaze started. Considerable relief at the outcome was expressed by a number of the employes of the factory who had gathered in the street. Had the blaze gone for about two minutes longer, a stack or boxes nearby would have ignited, and after them one or other of the wooden pillars supporting the roof. There would then have been little hope of saving the factory.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 10 November 1927, page 9

A CITY BLAZE.

Boot Factory's Escape.

Four minutes after they had received the call, a fireman from the City Fire Brigade, who attended an outbreak in Halifax street on Wednesday night, signalled back to the station that the fire was under control. At 9.33 o'clock the brigade received a call from the Halifax street alarm. A reel was dispatched immediately, in charge of Station Officer Griffin. On arrival in Halifax street, the big factory premises of Slatters, Limited, boot and shoe manufacturers, was seen to be ablaze. A deep-red glare from all windows and a great volume of smoke seemed to indicate that the building was well alight. Entering the front door, the firemen discovered that the blaze was confined as yet to a large bag of rubbish lying on the floor not far from the entrance. This was quickly dragged into the open and a hose played on it. Another hose was taken into the building and water played around the area where the bag had been. Then it was, exactly four minutes after the brigade received the call that the "All's well" signal was sent back to the head station. It had been a smart piece of work. But it had been a close call. Had not the brigade performed its work with such despatch the building might easily have been destroyed. Alongside the bag were a quantity of leather cuttings and scraps, and a pile of wooden boxes which reached up towards the wooden rafters of the roof. Materials in the building are, for the most part, inflammable, and, owing to the preparations for big Christmas orders, there was an extra large stock of both materials and partly made footwear. Mr. H. Slatters, the managing director of the company, was apprised of the happening, and shortly afterwards arrived with his son, Mr. D. Slatter. After inspecting the premises, Mr. Slatter expressed the belief that the blaze had been started through some outside agency. It is believed that some light was thrown on the origin of the outbreak by the statement of one of the employes, who arrived shortly after Mr. Slatter, that a rag which had been used the day before to mop up oil had been placed in the bag during Wednesday. A report will be made to the Coroner. The buildings and contents were insured with the South British Insurance Company for about £15,000. About 75 people, including 35 girls, are employed at the factory.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 19 November 1927, page 9

Bitumen on Fire

Bitumen caught alight at the refuse destructor of the City Council, Halifax street, Adelaide, this morning. No damage was done. The outbreak was quickly quelled, but the fire brigade stood by for a time in case of a fresh conflagration.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 22 November 1927, page 9

METROPOLITAN FIRES.

Buildings, Fences, and Grass.

Within six and a half hours on Monday, the City, Norwood, and North Adelaide Fire Brigades were called out to five fires. The biggest one was at 8.32 a.m. when the Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned by telephone to a burning two-story shop and dwelling in Kensington road, Norwood, occupied by Mr. W. H. Charles, bootmaker. The fittings and contents were severely damaged by fire, and other rooms in the building, which were empty, were affected by smoke and heat. The fire, which was got under control within half an hour, is believed to have been

caused by a short circuit in an electric motor under the staircase. The premises were insured with the Ocean & Accident Guarantee Corporation, Limited.

SHED DESTROYED.

Just before noon the Norwood Station received another call, this time to a house occupied by Mr. D. Hirsch, in Angas street, Kent Town, and owned by Mr. T. Christie, of High street, Burnside. A work shed at the rear was found to be alight. It is considered that hot ashes thrown out started the fire, and the shed and contents were destroyed. Half of a paling fence was burnt and the kitchen adjoining the shed was slightly damaged.

A Grote Street Alarm.

At 2 p.m. the City Brigade received a call to Bowen street, off Grote street, Adelaide, where rubbish and a fence on a vacant block at rear of the Church of Christ were burning. Little damage was done.

At Ovingham and Walkerville.

The North Adelaide Station had its first call shortly after 9 a.m. to Toronto street, Ovingham, where a paling fence on the property of Mrs. E. E. Morris was alight. The same station was summoned at 3 p.m. to a grass fire at Willesden street, Walkerville, on the property of Mrs. Newman, of Dulwich. Little damage was done in either case.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 28 November 1927, page 13

CASUALTIES.

HAY Paddock ON FIRE.

A fire broke out in a hay paddock at Cross roads, South Plympton, at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, on the property of Mr. F. H. Trott, of O'Halloran Hill. Six stooks of hay, of the total value of £4 10/, were destroyed. Investigations made by Constable E. N. Day, of Plympton, showed that three young men had set fire to the grass in the paddock, and it had got out of control.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 2 December 1927, page 9

A CITY FIRE.

MILL STREET BUILDING.

Brigade's Smart Work.

A fire on Thursday night, which might easily have assumed serious proportions in a populous section of the city, was extinguished by the Metropolitan Fire engine before much damage was done. About 9.30 o'clock, in answer to a call from the Supreme Court alarm, the brigade found a three-storied brick structure alight in Mill street, off Gouger street. On the ground floor, the building is occupied by Flint & Company, manufacturing chemists, and S. L. Price & Co., brushmakers. The second floor is used by Mr. R. T. Elliott, upholsterer, and the third floor is a gymnasium of Tuohy's Athletic Club. It was here that the fire had taken a hold, and the roof was blazing freely. In 20 minutes, however, the firemen had the flames under control. The apparatus and furniture in the gymnasium were severely damaged, but, except for damage caused by water, the contents of the other floors were little affected. As the first two floors contained much material of highly inflammable nature, it is considered that the brigade made a lucky save. The neighbourhood is a fairly congested one, and many of the buildings are old, so that had the fire spread, it might speedily have resulted in great loss. The outbreak appeared to have started at the northern end of the gymnasium.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 14 December 1927, page 13

CASUALTIES.

KESWICK FIRE ALARM.

About 10.40 p.m. on Tuesday the City Fire Brigade received a call to the Keswick Military Barracks. No fire had occurred however, the alarm having been the overhead sprinklers in the big equipment store at the barracks. It is surmised that the heat of the weather melted the wax in the sprinklers.

BRIGADE CALLED TO FOUNDRY.

About 11 o'clock on Tuesday night, the City Fire Brigade received a call to Forward Down & Co.'s premises, Hindley street, where it was found that a skylight in a section of the shop at the rear of the foundry had caught alight. The outbreak was quickly subdued with only slight damage.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 14 December 1927, page 11

A FALSE ALARM.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call about 10.30 p.m. yesterday from the automatic alarm at the Military Barracks, Keswick. A machine was hurried to the barracks, where it was found that the automatic fire-extinguishing apparatus in the equipment store at the rear was operating. It is believed that the heat of the day melted the wax in the overhead sprays and a large volume of water was thrown over the stores. As these were mainly of a nature that would not be affected by water, little damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 14 December 1927, page 14

FIRE IN HINDLEY-STREET.

A fire broke out on the roof of Messrs. Forwood, Down & Co.'s building, Hindley-street, city, shortly before 11 p.m. on Tuesday. A portion of the fascia board and rafters became ignited, but the fire brigade was promptly on the scene and extinguished the blaze before it had become dangerous. The damage was small.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 17 December 1927, page 13

ADELAIDE TRAFFIC.

New Regulations Explained.

During the last six months amendments to the street traffic bylaw of the Adelaide City Council have been gazetted, and now have the force of law. Although public notice of them has been given from time to time, apparently many drivers and pedestrians are not yet familiar with them.

The following resume is published for general information: — Vehicles, motor cycles, or bicycles must not be placed within 10 ft. of any pillar hydrant. This is to facilitate the Fire Brigade in its work in case of fire

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 22 December 1927, page 9

RUNDLE STREET FIRE

NATIONAL BANK ALIGHT.

Nearly £3,000 Damages.

Damage to the extent of between £2,000 and £3,000 resulted from a fire which broke out in the National Bank Buildings, Rundle street, on Wednesday evening. The National Bank's Rundle street building, a fine structure of recent construction, contains five stories, of which only the ground floor is used for the bank's business. The other floors are occupied largely by

wholesale firms. On the top floor is the warehouse of S. B. Hunt & Co., wholesale softgoods merchants, and it was there that the fire broke out.

Amateur Firefighter's Effort.

Mr. G. A. Goddard, the Adelaide representative of Borsdorff & Co., wholesale merchants, whose offices are also on the top floor, noticed, shortly before 6 p.m., smoke issuing from Hunt & Co.'s offices, and rushed downstairs to give the alarm of fire. Hurrying back, he obtained a chemical extinguisher from Doe Brothers' rooms in the same building. When the Metropolitan Fire Brigade arrived a few minutes later Mr. Goddard was hard at work. Included in the brigade's appliances were two Dennis pumps and a Merry-weather telescopic ladder. On reaching the top floor the firemen found that the blaze had a good hold in the centre of the warehouse. The room, however, was full of smoke, and much difficulty was experienced in locating the seat of the fire. Chemical extinguishers were played on the middle of the room, and many bundles of burning material were carried out and thrown on the galvanized iron roof of the building which adjoins at the back. Here a fireman was stationed playing water on the dump. It was not long before the firemen had the blaze under control.

Chemically Extinguished.

The brigade displayed remarkable foresight in the method of their attack on the flames. Within the building not a single line of hose was used, chemical extinguishers being the only kind of appliances brought into action. Had water been used the damages would have been very much greater. Not only Hunt and Co.'s stock would have been affected, but it is more than probable that the water would have leaked through into the next floor, where there is knitting machinery and stock valued at £6,000, the property of W. G. Pullman, Limited. Both stock and machinery were particularly susceptible to damage by water. As it was, damp patches on the ceiling indicated that even the liquid from the chemical extinguishers had leaked through.

Stocks Insured.

Miss N. E. Hunt, a member of the firm, was not long in arriving on the scene. She explained that the stock in the warehouse was insured with the United Insurance Company, Limited, for £6,000, but was valued at considerably more than that figure. She estimated the amount of damage at between £2,000 and £3,000. Miss Hunt said she had locked up the warehouse that evening at 5.15. She could not suggest the cause of the blaze. There were no electrical connections in the rooms.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 31 December 1927, page 16

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

Year's Splendid Work.

"The London Fire Brigade watches over us day and night. It never tires, it never sleeps. Led by a gallant and distinguished officer, it battles unceasingly with death and destruction. Picturesque, and yet practical, it is one of the great, live, human forces of London." These lines, from the pen of a great admirer of the London Fire Brigade, might have equally been written in regard to the Adelaide Fire Brigade, whose members certainly do everything claimed for their overseas comrades.

A representative of The Register called at the Fire Brigade headquarters in Wakefield street on Friday, December 23, and in the absence of the superintendent was referred to one of his officers, who furnished interesting information which gave a good idea of the valuable work being performed by the brigade.

The Brigade's Equipment.

At the head station there is a staff of 43 officers and men, including the superintendent, who is usually referred to as the chief officer. The Port Brigade numbers 20 men, including those in

charge of the fire float. There are eight at Port Pirie, five at Unley, Norwood, and Thebarton, and four each at Glenelg, Semaphore, and Gawler. Apart from the foregoing there are 13 auxiliary, or partially paid, stations in South Australia, where a man is always in attendance, and the majority are staffed with a complement of four partially paid men. The equipment at the head station consist of two large Dennis turbine pumps, one large Merryweather pump, one Garford pump, one motor turntable ladder, with extensions raising it to 90 ft.; in addition to five other fire appliances. Port Adelaide possesses a large Dennis motor pump, two motor hose carriers, and one motor tender. The Dennis pump is capable of throwing from 500 to 600 gallons of water a minute. The firefloat, which is in charge of two men is one of the most up-to-date in the Commonwealth, and is extremely powerful. It can be got under way in a few seconds. Norwood, Unley, Glenelg, Thebarton, and Semaphore are all provided with motor pumps and hose carriages. With the exception of Mallala, all the country stations are furnished with motor hose carriages.

Work of the Year.

Up to date, during the present year, the brigade has had 670 calls. For the year ended December 31, 1926, there was a total of 771 calls, but as there is another week still to go, it is quite on the cards that last year's figures may be reached or even exceeded. It is estimated that the percentage of false alarms amount to fully 25 per cent. There have been some big fires during the past 12 months, at which the brigade rendered splendid service, principal among them being Milburn & Jeffrey's joinery works at North street, Adelaide; the Overseas and International Traders, Port Adelaide; the conflagration at the Semaphore on April 10, when eight sideshows were destroyed; Peacock's tannery at Torrensville; City Fashions, Rundle street; Collins & Arbon, Gilbert place; Saies' large general store, Renmark; several shops at Solomontown road, Port Pirie; and Le Cornu's factory, North Adelaide. The pressure of water in the city was stated to be fair on the average, but in the suburbs, at times, it was very poor. The firefighting appliances possessed by the brigade are said to be quite sufficient to cope with any conflagration likely to occur, which is gratifying news, in view of the high buildings which have, comparatively recently, been erected in Adelaide.