

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1928

Sands and McDougall Directory for 1928 - Fire Brigades Board



Sands and McDougall Directory for 1928, page 1080

Head Station —

Wakefield st, South side, J. E. Dickie, supt, 97 Wakefield St

Branch Stations —

North Adelaide, Oldham C. T.. foreman N.A. Fire Brigade station. 82 Tynte Street East, NA.

Port Adelaide, C. Butler officer-in-charge. Cannon Street and Church Place, P.A.

Glenelg Fire Brigade Station, Gordon and Augusta Streets, Glenelg; Wm Horrocks, stn ofcr.
Pahl O., frmn Fire Brigade, 33 Gordon st, Glenelg

Semaphore, Woods H. C., stn officer S.A. Fire Brigade Station, Hall and Jagoe Streets,
Semaphore. O'Keefe Jno, firemn, Hall st. Semaphore. Davis P. W., fireman, Hall st,
Semaphore

Port Pirie Fire Brigade Station. Gertrude St. Pt Pirie

Norwood Fire Brigade Station, 202 Parade, Norwood—W. Lyson, in charge, Bland T. W., in
charge.

Unley Fire Brigade Station. G. Luck, officer in charge, 80 Edmund av, New Parkside. Edmund
av—N side 78 Purvis, W, fireman, 80 Unley Fire Brigade Station, 82 Luck, G, stn officer.

Thebarton Fire Brigade Station, 40 Carlton Parade, Torrensville. F. F. Hopkins, officer in
charge; E. J. Kelly, foreman.

Volunteer Stations —

Kilkenny Volunteer Fire Station, Kilkenny rd. Kilkenny

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh pl, Hindmarsh

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 2 January 1928, page 7

HAWKER'S VAN BURNT.

Between midnight and 1 a.m. on Sunday Constable Chilman, of Goodwood Police Station, was awakened by persons who informed him that a fire had occurred at a house in Foundry street, Goodwood, and they did not know where to find the fire alarm. The constable telephoned the Unley Fire Brigade, and went to the scene of the fire. A motor van, containing a quantity of hawker's soft goods, which was standing in the lane at the side of the house at No. 15 Foundry street, was blazing furiously. The van belonged to Mr. Assad Beshara, a middle-aged Assyrian hawker, who resided with his family on the premises. The van's stock, valued at £450, was ready to be taken away on Tuesday. The vehicle was valued at £150. The property is covered by insurance. At the time of the outbreak, Mr. Beshara and some of his family were at the home of friends some distance away. Two of his daughters were asleep in the house, and were awakened by the fire. They immediately rushed in night attire to their father, who not knowing the situation of the fire alarm near Goodwood railway crossing, went to Constable Chilman. The brigade promptly quelled the fire, which had spread to the roofing fascia boards, and the dividing fence by the house of Mr. G. J. Frost.

BIG CITY FIRE

TWO-STOREYED BUILDING GUTTED.

ANOTHER CURRIE STREET OUTBREAK.

WILCOX, MOFFLIN, AND EYLES & CO.'S PREMISES.

Early on Sunday morning the two-storeyed building, chiefly occupied by Wilcox, Mofflin, Limited, hide, skin, and wool dealers, and S. C. Eyles and Co., merchants and importers, in Currie street, was demolished by fire. Also located in the gutted structure, which is bounded on one side by Richards Building and on the other by Bloor court, a narrow laneway, were the offices of the Adelaide Bindery, the Commercial Printery, and Avenues, Limited. It was a bad night for the firemen, although it had started off well, there being a most unusual absence of false alarms, which in past years has been one of the stock methods by which some New Year's Eve revellers give vent to a perverted sense of humour. A genuine fire at Goodwood, which had claimed the attention of a section of the city brigade, was all part of the firemen's job; but just at the time when the appliance was returning— about 2.30 a.m.— Constable B. R. Heuzler heard an explosion while on his beat in Currie street. At first he thought it was in Totham street, but, failing to detect anything untoward there, he crossed quickly to the verandah of the John Bull Hotel, and then noticed smoke issuing from Bloor street. One glance there was sufficient, and the street alarm immediately across the road from the doomed building provided a means of notifying brigade headquarters.

Lurid Spectacle.

Soon afterwards another shutter dropped on the alarm board at the station—this from another constable in Light square— and a phone message was also received from Inspector Nation at Way-mouth street west. A combination hose carriage and escape was first on the scene, followed speedily by two motor pump appliances, and then the big ladder and salvage wagon were also turned out. Chief Officer J. E. Dickie arrived on the scene to supervise operations personally, and, taking in the situation with a rapidity born of long experience, immediately summoned reinforcements from the outstations, the brigades,

from Adelaide, Norwood, North Adelaide, and Thebarton all being soon at work. The whole of that side of the building running down Bloor street — the ground floor of which was occupied by Wilcox, Mofflin mainly as offices— was well alight when the first brass helmet made its appearance, and, spreading with alarming suddenness, the flames licked upwards and westwards towards the walls of Richards Building. Flames shot into the sky, and showers of sparks made a lurid glare in the dark-ness. As usual, a fascinated crowd gathered from nowhere, but the police, under Inspector Nation, had no difficulty in clearing the precincts and facilitating the firefighters in every way.

Firemen Burned.

In one sense it was not a bad fire, inasmuch as the outbreak was hemmed in on the west by the tall bulwark of Richards Building, bordered at the rear and east by lanes, and there were no congested dwelling houses to worry about. Lines of hose were run out on all sides, the motor pumps "boosted" the pressure from the mains, and with characteristic efficiency the brigade had in a few moments settled down to the task it understands so well. Even so, it was a good two hours fight for 40 or more firemen, with seven or eight powerful jets of water, before it could be said, in the words of one of those engaged, that "the whole shootin' gallery was over." Fumes from burning soap, candles, hides, and groceries made the task any-thing but pleasant, while there was more than one narrow escape from injury or perhaps worse. Fireman Mayfield, who was tackling the flames from the top of the ladder at one of the first floor front windows, was suddenly enveloped in flames which burst through the window, and received painful burns on the legs and hands, and had to be sent off duty for medical treatment and bed. Other firemen worked inwards from the main ground floor entrances, but the chief officer, whose experienced eye seemed to be everywhere, warned them to hold back. Hardly had he done so when the roof and ceilings began to fall in— a chaos of flaring beams and plaster. Many of them soaked through, and shivering in the chill dawn wind, the fire men were by no means as warm as might be supposed would be the case, and oil skins, and sou'-westers would not have been amiss in the drenched confines of the devastated building, out of the doors and windows of which poured water inches deep. When morning paled the sky, a weird collection of debris became visible in the gutters and laneways. Anything from candles and clothespegs to limp packets of custard powder floated down like flotsam and jetsam on a soapy tide. Beyond a few cracked windows over-looking the fire, Richards Building was not harmed— at least visibly— nor, thanks to the lanes, were other adjacent premises damaged. It was not until about 5 a.m. that the appliances, one by one, began to disappear, with a roar of exhausts and a clanging of bells, while it was some hours later before the last of the firemen departed to his first well-earned breakfast for 1928.

Extent of Damage.

When questioned on Sunday regarding the extent of the damage to his premises, Mr S. C. Eyles said he was unable to give a satisfactory estimate without consulting his accountant and papers in his office, which fortunately had been preserved in the strong room. He received advice regarding the fire only at 1 p.m. that day, being on holiday at Bridgewater with his family. It was fortunate that the bulk store at the back of the main building had been saved. In the gutted building were groceries of all kinds, and he would roughly estimate the total value of the stock at between £13,000 and £14,000. The building itself, which was the property of the company, was worth about £12,000. He believed the whole

property was covered by insurance, but could give no details at that stage. His accountant was at Murray Bridge. As to the amount of damage to Wilcox, Mofflin's premises, the manager (Mr. T. Phelps) said he believed the property was covered by insurance, but at present he was not in a position to give details.



State Library of South Australia - Currie Street, Adelaide [B 4821], [General description] S.C.Eyles' building is in process of demolition with street and parked cars in the foreground. [On back of photograph] 'Acre 136 / Currie Street, south side / 10 January 1928 / Eyles' premises demolished in 1928. For view of building erected in 1929 see B 5430 / Site of Eyles' premises: Left side is 19 yards west of Bloor Court / Frontage: 10 yards'. Approximately 1928. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 136 Collection.

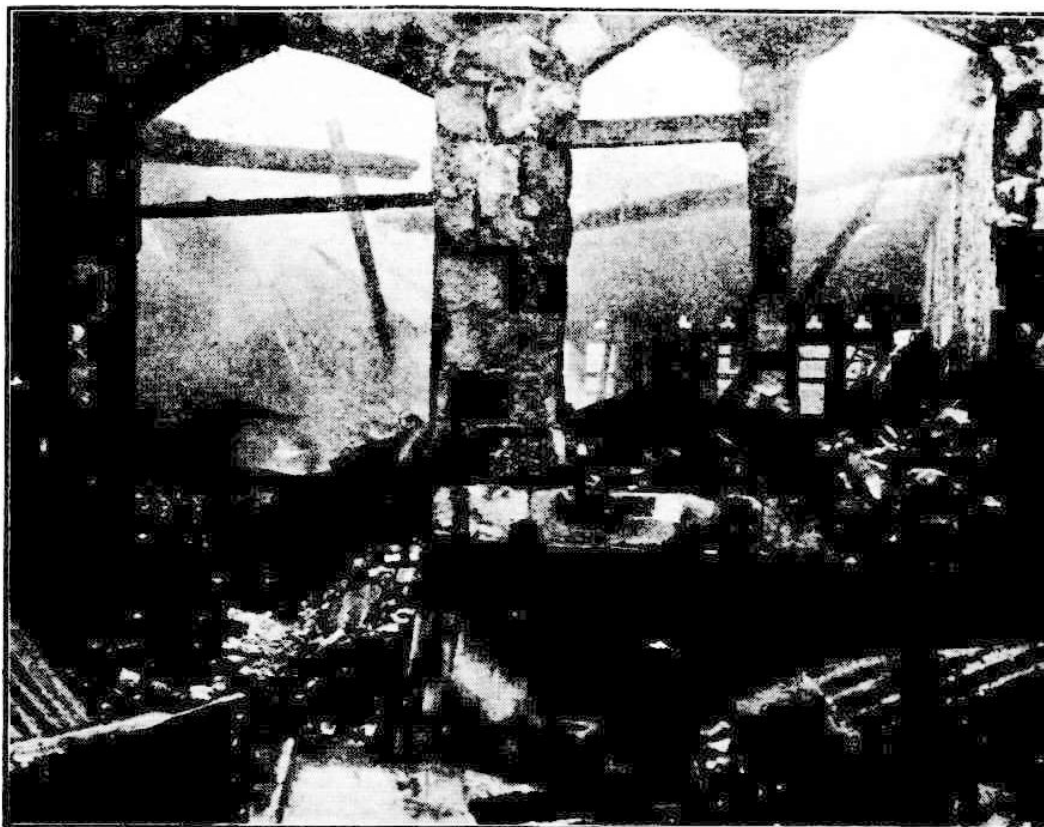
Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 2 January 1928, page 10

DISASTROUS CITY FIRE

A fire which broke out shortly before 3 o'clock yesterday morning gutted the premises in Currie-street occupied by the firms of Wilcox, Mofflin, Ltd., S. C. Eyles & Co., the Commercial Printery, Avenues, Ltd, and the Adelaide Bindery Company, The damage is estimated at £20,000.



THE BUILDING OCCUPIED BY WILCOX, MOFFLIN AND THE COMMERCIAL PRINTERY.



ALL THAT IS LEFT OF MESSRS. S. C. EYLES & CO'S WAREHOUSE. —Krischock. photo.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 2 January 1928, page 9

FIRE IN CURRIE-STREET.

CITY BLOCK DESTROYED.

GALLANT WORK BY FIREMEN.

Damage estimated at £20,000 was caused when the block of buildings in Currie-street occupied by Wilcox, Mofflin, Ltd., and Messrs. S. C. Eyles & Co. were gutted by fire early on Sunday morning. One fireman sustained severe burns on his legs, arms and hands.

At 2.35 on Sunday morning Constable B. R. Heusler, who was patrolling Currie-street, heard a loud explosion, which he at first thought came from Topham-street. After investigating in that locality and finding nothing, he was walking west again when he noticed smoke coming from Bloor-court, a small lane leading off the southern side of Currie-street. On reaching the lane he saw flames ascending from the rear of the premises of Wilcox, Mofflin, Ltd. He called to a man standing near the fire alarm on the opposite side of the street to break the glass. Shortly after the alarm was received at the fire-station, the Light-square alarm was also rung, and a telephone message was received from Inspector Nation, who had observed the blaze from Waymouth-street west and located it at the back of West's Picture Theatre. As soon as the appliances had left the station the blaze was reported from the tower. Chief Officer J. E. Dickie, who had been congratulating himself on the fact that no false alarms had been received throughout the night, a most unusual state of affairs for New Year's Eve, proceeded to the fire. It was found that the whole block of buildings facing Currie-street, bounded by Richards Buildings on the west, Bloor-court on the east, and a small lane at the

back, was ablaze, and the chief officer immediately called out the four out-stations, Unley, North Adelaide, Norwood, and Thebarton. The total muster was eight appliances and about 40 firemen. The block consisted of two adjoining buildings, one occupied by Wilcox, Mofflin, Ltd., skin dealers, and the other by Messrs. S. C. Eyles & Co., importers. The former building was also occupied by the Commercial Printery, Avenues, Ltd. and the Adelaide Bindery Company. It consisted of a two-storey brick front, the upper floor being wood and iron on three sides. A skin store was located in the basement, and it escaped damage. The other building was of brick, with a wood and iron addition at the back. About 200 people had assembled to watch the blaze, and many of them waited until daylight to see the last of it. They were kept on the footpath by the police, commanded by Inspector Nation. It was obvious that nothing could be done to save the buildings, and the firemen set about the task of keeping the fire within the bounds of the two lanes and Richards Buildings. The latter would have been in serious danger had it not been for its modern construction. By 3.30 the fire was well isolated, but there was a considerable blaze, which required a good deal of attention with a gusty wind blowing from the west. The back lane provided a fair fire break, except at the point where Eyles's bulk store, a long one-storey building, ran back contiguous with the wall of Richards Building. It was in the lane that the firemen's hardest work lay. A portion of the bulk store was already well alight when the door was broken in, and the hoses played on the blaze of burning merchandise, mostly groceries. Picking their way in the dark among a network of hoses, wading in water beneath the swaying wood and iron walls, the men went calmly about their task. A combination hose carriage and ladder was erected in front of the block, and a hose played from the top of the ladder into the blazing shell. The hose on the top of Richards Buildings was also brought to bear on the fire.

The Work of the Brigade.

It was 5 o'clock and daylight before the fire was out. Most of the goods were of a highly inflammable nature and burned fiercely. From the front door of Messrs. S. C. Eyles & Co.'s store candles, clothes pegs, and custard powder were washed in the stream from the hoses, and in other places the water carried a thick coating of scum, formed by dissolved soap. The firemen had many remarkable escapes as the upper floors fell, but only one man was hurt. Fireman T. Mayfield was working on a ladder at one of the front windows of Wilcox Mofflin's, and a gust of wind blew the flames back towards him. He received severe burns on the hands, arms, and knees, and was at once taken back to the station. When the work permitted of a breathing space the men were supplied with tea sent from the head station.

Richards Buildings Unscathed.

A good deal of anxiety was felt for Richards Buildings, which have been rebuilt after being destroyed by fire in 1924. The caretaker, Mr. T. Marsden, who occupies a flat on the roof, is in the habit of sleeping out, but on Saturday night, owing to the wind, he was sleeping inside, and knew nothing of the fire until he was awakened by Mr. Fred Richards, who had motored into the city as soon as he saw the blaze. Mr. Marsden was the caretaker in the old building, and on the night of the fire lost the whole of his household goods, and barely escaped with his life, having to descend from the roof. He was naturally much upset when he first heard that the fire was so close, but it was soon realised that the building was in no danger. Although the flames were actually licking the walls for about two hours, the sum total of the damage to the building was one cracked window pane. Mr. Richards himself plied the hose from the top of the building on to the fire some three or four storeys below.

The caretaker stated that he had often seen, from the top of the building, rats on the roof of the next premises, drinking from cisterns. With candles and matches in the store, it was not improbable that the rats were the cause of the fire. So far as was known, there had been nobody in the building since mid-day Saturday, more than 14 hours before the fire was noticed. Once a blaze had been started, there was plenty of inflammable material to keep it going. There was a strong smell of kerosine from certain portions of the building, during the fire. There were indications that the fire started in the offices of Wilcox, Mofflin, Limited. The policeman who gave the alarm saw flames issuing from the south eastern corner of the building, which might have been either the office or the staircase leading to the upper storey. The clock on the opposite wall had stopped at 2.55, indicating that that portion of the building, which adjoins Messrs. Eyles and Co.'s premises, had not been reached by the fire until practically the whole place was ablaze.

The Stacks Destroyed.

Mr. T. Phelps, manager of Wilcox, Mofflin, Limited, said he could not estimate the damage done. His firm's stores contained rabbit and other skins. Portion of loss would be covered by insurance, but he could not supply the particulars on Sunday. Arrangements had been made for Wilcox, Mofflin, Limited, to occupy temporarily an office on the first floor of Richards Buildings from Tuesday morning. Mr. S. C. Eyles said he could not supply particulars of the damage or insurance until he saw the company's accountant, who was at Murray Bridge. He had himself been spending a holiday with his family at Bridgewater, and did not hear of the fire until 1 p.m. on Sunday. It was fortunate that the bulk store at the back of the building had been saved. The building destroyed was the property of the company, and would be worth about £1,000. The stock, which consisted mainly of groceries, would be worth from £13,000 to £14,000. He believed it was covered by insurance, but had no details.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 3 January 1928, page 13

A SMALL CITY FIRE.

At about 3.16 a.m. on Monday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to Compton-street, off Gouger-street, Adelaide, where they found a shed at the rear of a house occupied by Mrs. Munro, and a portion of the back fence of the adjoining house, occupied by Mr. E. Brown, alight. The flames were speedily extinguished. The shed and portion of the fence, and some furniture which had been stacked near, were damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 4 January 1928, page 9

A SMALL FIRE.

A small outbreak of fire in a lane at the rear of the establishment of Messrs. James Marshall & Company, Rundle-street, at 7.22 p.m. on Tuesday, was checked by the Fire Brigade before much damage was done. The fire started in a stack of cases of preserving jars, and about ten cases were destroyed. The cause of the outbreak is not known.

FIRE IN STEPHENS PLACE.

On Tuesday evening the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to a small courtyard at the rear of James Marshall and Co.'s premises, off Stephens place, where a fire had started in some packing cases. The cases contained a large quantity of straw, and the blaze might have

assumed dangerous proportions but for the smart work of the brigade, which extinguished the fire within a few minutes of its arrival.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 6 January 1928, page 1

FIRE AT EDWARDSTOWN

Shop and Contents Damaged

Fire broke out in a shop occupied by Mr. W. L. Forbes, tailor, of South road, Edwardstown, about 1 o'clock this morning, and extensive damage was done. Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned to the scene. Shop fittings and contents, including cloth and suitings, were severely damaged. It is estimated by Mr. John Lawson, of Edward street, Edwardstown (owner of the premises) that damage to the shop was between £150 and £175. The shop was insured.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 7 January 1928, page 58

FIRE IN CURRIE STREET.

CITY BLOCK DESTROYED.

GALLANT WORK BY FIREMEN.

At 2.35 on Sunday morning Constable B. R. Heusler, who was patrolling Currie-street, heard a loud explosion, which he at first thought came from Topham-street. After investigating in that locality and finding nothing, he was walking west again when he noticed smoke coming from Bloor-court, a small lane leading off the southern side of Currie-street. On reaching the lane he saw flames ascending from the rear of the premises of Wilcox, Mofflin, Ltd. He called to a man standing near the fire alarm on the opposite side of the street to break the glass. Shortly after the alarm was received at the fire-station, the Light-square alarm was also rung, and a telephone message was received from Inspector Nation, who had observed the blaze from Wymouth-street west and located it at the back of West's Picture Theatre. As soon as the appliances had left the station the blaze was reported from the tower. Chief Officer J. E. Dickie, who had been congratulating himself on the fact that no false alarms had been received throughout the night, a most unusual state of affairs for New Year's Eve, proceeded to the fire. It was found that the whole block of buildings facing Currie-street, bounded by Richards Buildings on the west, Bloor court on the east, and a small lane at the back, was ablaze, and the chief officer immediately called out the four out-stations, Unley, North Adelaide, Norwood, and Thebarton. The total muster was eight appliances and about 40 firemen. The block consisted two adjoining buildings, one occupied by Wilcox, Mofflin, Ltd., skin dealers, and the other by Messrs. S. C. Eyles & Co., importers. The former building was also occupied by the Commercial Printery, Avenues, Ltd. and the Adelaide Bindery Company. It consisted of a two-storey brick front, the upper floor being wood and iron on three sides. A skin store was located in the basement, and it escaped damage. The other building was of brick, with a wood and iron addition at the back. About 200 people had assembled to watch the blaze, and many of them waited until daylight to see the last of it. They were kept on the footpath by the police, commanded by Inspector Nation. It was obvious that nothing could be done to save the buildings, and the firemen set about the task of keeping the fire within the bounds of the two lanes and Richards Buildings. The latter would have been in serious danger had it not been for its modern construction. By 3.30 the fire was well isolated, but there was a considerable blaze, which required a good deal of

attention with a gusty wind blowing from the west. The back lane provided a fair fire break, except at the point where Eyles's bulk store, a long one-storey building, ran back contiguous with the wall of Richards Building. It was in the lane that the firemen's hardest work lay. A portion of the bulk store was already well alight when the door was broken in, and the hoses played on the blaze of burning merchandise, mostly groceries. Picking their way in the dark among a network of hoses, wading in water beneath, the swaying wood and iron walls, the men went calmly about their task. A combination hose carriage and ladder was erected in front of the block, and a hose played from the top of the ladder into the blazing shell. The hose on the top of Richards Buildings was also brought to bear on the fire. The Work of the Brigade. It was 5 o'clock and daylight before the fire was out. Most of the goods were of a highly inflammable nature and burned fiercely. From the front door of Messrs. S. C. Eyles & Co. store candles, clothes pegs, and custard powder were washed in the stream from the hoses, and in other places the water carried a thick coating of scum, formed by dissolved soap. The firemen had many remarkable escapes as the upper floors fell, but only one man was hurt. Fireman T. Mayfield was working on a ladder at one of the front windows of Wilcox Mofflin's, and a gust of wind blew the flames back towards him. He received severe burns on the hands, arms, and knees, and was at once taken back to the station. When the work permitted of a breathing space the men were supplied with tea sent from the head station. Richards Buildings Unscathed. A good deal of anxiety was felt for Richards Buildings, which have been re-built after being destroyed by fire in 1924. The caretaker, Mr. T. Marsden, who occupies a flat on the roof, is in the habit of sleeping out, but on Saturday night, owing to the wind, he was sleeping inside, and knew nothing of the fire until he was awakened by Mr. Fred Richards, who had motored into the city as soon as he saw the blaze. Mr. Marsden was the caretaker in the old building, and on the night of the fire lost the whole of his household goods, and barely escaped with his life, having to descend from the roof. He was naturally much upset when he first heard that the fire was so close, but it was soon realised that the building was in no danger. Although the flames were actually licking the walls for about two hours, the sum total of the damage to the building was one cracked window pane. Mr. Richards himself held the hose from the top of the building on to the fire some three or four storeys below. The caretaker stated that he had often seen, from the top of the building, rats on the roof of the next premises, drinking from cisterns. With candles and matches in the store, it was not improbable that the rats were the cause of the fire. So far as was known, there had been nobody in the building since mid-day Saturday, more than 14 hours before the fire was noticed. Once a blaze had been started, there was plenty of inflammable material to keep it going. There was a strong smell of kerosine from certain portions of the building, during the fire. There were indications that the fire started in the offices of Wilcox, Mofflin, Limited. The policeman who gave the alarm saw flames issuing from the south eastern corner of the building, which might have been either the office or the staircase leading to the upper storey. The clock on the opposite wall had stopped at 2.55, indicating that that portion of the building, which adjoins Messrs. Eyles and Co.'s premises, had not been reached by the fire until practically the whole place was ablaze. The Stocks Destroyed. Mr. T. Phelps, manager of Wilcox, Mofflin, Limited, said he could not estimate the damage done. His firm's stores contained rabbit and other skins. Portion of the loss would be covered by insurance, but he could not supply the particulars on Sunday. Arrangements had been made for Wilcox, Mofflin, Limited, to occupy temporarily an office on the first floor of Richards Buildings from Tuesday morn-Mr. S. C. Eyles said he could not supply particulars of the damage or insurance until he saw the company's accountant, who was at Murray Bridge. He had himself been spending a holiday with his family at

Bridgewater, and did not hear of the fire until 1 p.m. on Sun-day. It was fortunate that the bulk store at the back of the building had been saved. The building destroyed was the property of the company, and would be worth about £1,000. The stock, which consisted mainly of groceries, would be worth from £13,000 to £14,000. He believed it was covered by insurance, but had no details.



THE BUILDING OCCUPIED BY WILCOX, MOFFLIN AND THE COMMERCIAL PRINTERY.

THE BUILDING OCCUPIED BY WILCOX, MOFFLIN AND THE COMMERCIAL PRINTERY.



B 4771

State Library of South Australia - Currie Street, Adelaide [B 4771], [General description] This two storey stone building has been gutted by a fire which occurred at about 3 a.m. on Monday, 2nd January 1928. Damage was estimated to be more than £20.000. The building was occupied chiefly by Willcox, Mofflin. Ltd., hide, skin and wool merchants, and S. C. Eyles and Co., wholesale grocers and Importers. The Richards Building next door was also badly damaged in a big fire three years earlier on Tuesday 11th November, 1924. [On back of photograph] 'The two storey buildings were demolished in 1928. For view of buildings subsequently erected see B 5071' (Another hand) 'Acres 135 & 136 / Currie St., south side / west corner of Bloor Court / 10 January 1928 / Photo. taken shortly after the fire'. Approximately 1928, Photographer, State Library of South Australia, Part of Acre 136 Collection.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 7 January 1928, page 19

A CITY FIRE.

TRADING COMPANY'S LOSS.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was advised of a fire in the premises of the Colonial Trading Company, off Chesser-street, City, at 6.55 p.m. on Friday, and when the men reached the scene of the outbreak, they found that the flames had travelled from the ground floor to the second storey, and much damage had been done. The building is a brick one of two storeys, and is understood to have contained a small amount of stock, packing cases, and furniture. The fire was under control in about 10 minutes, one line of hose, which was attached to a hydrant in Chester-street, being used. The fire, the cause of which is not known, appeared to have started in the western end of the ground floor, and reaching the rafters and the flooring of the second storey, spread almost the full extent of the upper room. Here as on the ground floor, much damage to the contents was done by fire and water, but last night no estimate of the loss could be made.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 7 January 1928, page 13

WAREHOUSE ALIGHT.

Blaze in Chesser Street.

Shortly after 7 p.m. on Friday, a fire broke out in the warehouse of the Colonial Trading Company, in a lane off Chesser street, and adjacent to Pirie street. When the fire brigade arrived, the blaze had got a hold in both floors of the building. By smart work, however, the fire men had the outbreak under control within a few minutes. On both floors there were considerable quantities of merchandise, much of which was in wooden cases. Almost all the contents of the building were much damaged, either by fire or by water. At a late hour, however, the manager of the company had not been located, so that an estimate of the damage was impossible. The outbreak caused considerable anxiety owing to its locality. There are several warehouses huddled close by, including those of S. Schlank & Co., George Selth, McRae, Robert Harper, Robert Bryce, and Pitman & Co. At the Grenfell street corner of Chesser street is the big Worando Building, housing showrooms and offices of several important companies.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 7 January 1928, page 13

CASUALTIES.

GRASS FIRES.

Two grass fires occupied the Fire Brigade in the south park lands on Friday afternoon. The first call was received at 3.18 p.m. to an outbreak near the South Terrace Railway Station. Half an hour later the brigade was called out again to a more extensive fire near Brown street, which took 20 minutes to extinguish.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 9 January 1928, page 12

CASUALTIES.

RECURRENCE OF FIRE.

Shortly before 9 o'clock on Sunday night the City Fire Brigade were called to the scene of last Sunday's disastrous fire at the premises of S. C. Eyles and Co., Currie street, where a quantity of debris at the rear of the demolished building had caught alight. Dense clouds of smoke first attracted the attention of passers by, and just at the alarm to the brigade was given a tongue of flame shot skywards. The outbreak was quickly subdued, one hose only being utilized, and no damage resulted. The fire was attributed to spontaneous combustion.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 10 January 1928, page 15

A MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

A motor car, owned by Mr. G. J. Forden, of Cross-roads, Highgate, burst into flames in Kintore-avenue, Adelaide, shortly after 5 p.m. on Monday. Damage estimated at £50 was done before the Fire Brigade arrived. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 12 January 1928, page 13

FIRE IN JAMES PLACE

Brigade's Excellent Save.

The proficiency of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was again proved on Wednesday night, when what might have been a calamitous fire in the heart of the city was extinguished within a few minutes. Shortly after 9 o'clock, Mr. Leo Johnson, of Lower North Adelaide, was in James place, which connects Grenfell with Rundle street, when he saw smoke issuing from the three-storey premises of the National Clothing Manufacturing Company. He immediately informed M.C. Moore, who rang the fire alarm. Within two minutes the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was at work. Breaking in the front door, the firemen found that the blaze was confined to the ground floor. With a single line of hose they soon had the flames under control. Great volumes of smoke issuing from the building attracted a big crowd, and several police officers were sent from the metropolitan watchhouse to direct the traffic. Mr. J. A. Harper (managing director of the company) inspected the premises some time after the fire had been extinguished, and estimated the damage at between £200 and £300. A quantity of overcoats and woollen garments were burnt, and a wooden counter was also damaged. The National Clothing Manufacturing Company's premises, which have a large frontage to James place, abuts on the northern side the big warehouse of Faulding & Co. manufacturing druggists, and on the southern side the Trustee Building. The nature of the contents of the premises are such that, had the fire secured a hold, a tremendous fire would have resulted. As it was, the one line of hose used had to be brought nearly from Rundle street, and many difficulties would have been encountered had more lines been needed. The narrowness of James place would also have added to the troubles of the firemen. The area is most

congested, and the rear of the affected building abuts several big King William street establishments, while the Grand Theatre is but one building away.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 12 January 1928, page 17

SMOKED IN BED

Damage at Eagle Hotel

Shortly after 4 o'clock this morning occupants of the Eagle Hotel, Hindley street, were roused by the smell of burning clothing. It was discovered that bedding had ignited owing to the carelessness of a boarder smoking while in bed. Adelaide Fire Brigade was called, and quickly extinguished the blaze. The bedding was destroyed and slight damage was caused to the room by water.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 13 January 1928, page 15

FIRE AT A BITUMEN PLANT.

A quantity of bitumen caught alight at the Adelaide Corporation plant in Halifax-street shortly before 9 p.m. on Thursday. The fire brigade prevented the blaze from spreading.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 16 January 1928, page 10

FIRE IN RUNDLE-STREET.

The Fire Brigade was called to the premises of Sym Choon & Co., merchants, Rundle-street east, shortly before one o'clock on Sunday afternoon. A fire of unknown origin had occurred on the premises, but was extinguished within an hour. It is reported that the contents of a storeroom were slightly damaged.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 16 January 1928, page 14

FIRE IN RUNDLE STREET.

At 12.47 p.m. on Sunday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to the premises of Messrs. Sym Choon & Co., merchants, 235 Rundle street east, and a prompt response was made. The firemen were able to confine the outbreak to the storeroom, the contents of which were slightly damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 16 January 1928, page 10

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

GRASS FIRES.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade had two calls to grass fires on Saturday afternoon. The first was at the Victoria Park racecourse, and the call was received at 3.20 o'clock. The firefighters confined the outbreak to the flat, the grass on about half of which was burned. No other damage was done. At 4.45 p.m., a call was received to the East Parklands, near Rundle-street. In addition to the grass being burned a culvert was badly damaged by the flames.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 30 January 1928, page 14

FIRE AT EDWARDSTOWN.

The City Fire Brigade received a call by telephone at 3.25 a.m. on Saturday to Edwardstown. On arrival the firemen found that a shed on the property of Mr. Dale, Gladys-street, was ablaze. The building and contents were completely destroyed.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 31 January 1928, page 13

CASUALTIES.

SMALL CITY FIRE.

At the confectionery shop of Mrs. A. Richardson, Angas street, Adelaide, a fire occurred shortly before 1.15 p.m. on Monday, on the ground floor. Wooden packing cases under a staircase caught alight. The men of the Fire Brigade had to don masks to enable them to work in the thick smoke. The fire, however, was extinguished in about 10 minutes. Mrs. Richardson was away at the time. Furniture on the premises was damaged by fire and water.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 1 February 1928, page 11

Lime Causes Fire

A small fire occurred this morning in the basement of the new State Bank, Pirie street, which was opened for public transactions for the first time yesterday. Owing to water coming into contact with several bags of lime a small quantity of timber was ignited. The outbreak was easily quelled by Adelaide Fire Brigade, which received a call at 6.20 o'clock.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 1 February 1928, page 11

East-End Market Outbreak

Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 7.56 o'clock this morning to the premises of A. A. Brice & Co., Limited, at East-End Market, where a fire had been started through a hot exhaust pipe of an engine coming into contact with the board flooring. Only slight damage resulted.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 6 February 1928, page 15

FIRE IN HINDLEY-STREET.

A fire broke out in a dwelling-house, occupied by Mr. P. Guvolo in Hindley-street between 10 and 11 o'clock on Sunday morning. The Fire Brigade found that the fire was caused by a leakage of gas setting fire to the floor in the passage. Little damage was done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 9 February 1928, page 1

ESTIMATED DAMAGE £300

Prompt Work by Brigade

Hats to the value of £300 were destroyed when a fire broke out early this morning in a room in Central Chambers, Charles street, Adelaide, occupied by C. H. L. Craigie & Co. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from Charles street alarm at 12.59 o'clock, and a few minutes later the firemen had the outbreak under control. It is believed that the fire was caused by an electric iron. Mr. C. H. L. Craigie stated this morning that the damaged goods were covered by insurance. The room occupied by the firm is on the second floor of Central

Chambers. The shop immediately below, occupied by the Misses Hasse, sustained slight damage from water.

Saturday Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1929), Saturday 11 February 1928, page 1

EARLY MORNING FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call at 3.10 o'clock this morning to Dells, of 123 Rundle street. A back room was found to be burning, and the outbreak was not got under control until the room had been destroyed. The fire had also extended to the back of the shop, but the brigade succeeded in saving that portion.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 15 February 1928, page 13

CASUALTIES.

BUS ON FIRE.

On Tuesday evening, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade had a call to the G.P.O., where the rear portion of a Railways motor bus, of the Adelaide-Gawler service was in flames. The fire had been caused by the friction of a tight brakeband on the brake drum, the heat of which had ignited the oil on the rear wheel. The blaze was extinguished before much damage had been done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 17 February 1928, page 1

WALL DEMOLISHED

CURRIE STREET DANGER

Electric Power Lines Snapped

Many spectators gathered in Currie street this morning to witness workmen demolish the front wall of the building previously occupied by Willcox, Mofflin, Limited, but which was recently damaged by fire and had become a menace to pedestrians and traffic. Policemen kept the more daring at a safe distance to prevent the possibility of accident. That such action was justified was shown when the falling mass of masonry struck nearby telegraph and electric power lines, and snapped them as if they were strands of silk. Contact with the power lines would have meant instantaneous death. Employees of the Adelaide Electric Supply Company and the telegraph department were quickly in attendance to effect repairs. To demolish the wall a strong hawser was attached, and 10 workmen attempted to pull the wall inward. In falling, however, the top portion heeled toward the inside of the building, but the lower part, with the exception of the eastern corner, tumbled outward. Two trees on the footpath were badly damaged. The falling ruins interfered with the direct line to Adelaide Fire Brigade and gave a warning at the head station. This resulted in the brigade rushing to the scene. Electric trams for Henley Beach and destinations usually served by the Currie street line resumed their usual runs immediately. While men engaged in the work of demolition were at lunch at the rear of the building several pieces of charred timber fell, and Mr. F. F. Thurston received a slight scalp wound.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 18 February 1928, page 10

DANGEROUS WALL DEMOLISHED IN CURRIE STREET.



The remains of the stone wall, 30 ft. high, which was part of the gutted premises of Wilcox, Mofflin, Limited, and S. C. Eyles & Co., in Currie street. Our picture shows the debris after the wall had been pulled down, smashing trees and telegraph wires. Owing to the wall cracking and swaying, traffic in the vicinity had to be stopped on Thursday afternoon and evening, and the wall was pulled down early on Friday morning. The falling ruins interfered with the direct line to the Adelaide Fire Brigade, and gave a warning to the head station, with the result that the brigade came rushing to the scene. Employes of the Adelaide Electric Supply Company and the Telegraph Department were quickly in attendance to effect repairs to the broken wires.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 22 February 1928, page 1

PARKSIDE FIRE

DRAPERY SHOP DESTROYED

Thieves Suspected

Between 2 and 3 o'clock this morning the stock and fittings of Mr. Charles F. Main, draper, of Duthy street, New Parkside, were completely destroyed by fire. The building was severely damaged. The owner suspects that thieves were responsible for the outbreak. The fire was first noticed by two employes of the Municipal Tramways Trust who were engaged on the Kingswood line with an electric planing machine. They immediately communicated with their head-office, which in turn rang Unley Fire Brigade. In the meantime several residents in the vicinity had noticed the flames and had also summoned the brigade. The fire had quickly secured a strong hold, and the only hope was to confine it to the shop of Mr. Main. The shop was one of a block of four owned by Opie Bros. Had the brigade been 10 minutes later there is little doubt that the shop of Mr. A. Triplow, which adjoins the one destroyed, would also

have been gutted. The verandah and leadlights of the front windows of the latter structure were badly damaged. The flames were also close to the back entrance of the shop. In addition to the Unley Brigade motor reel an appliance was sent from Adelaide. Mr. Main, when seen this morning, said that he was at a loss to explain the cause of the fire. A time switch for the electric lighting of the shop windows turned off the lights at 10 o'clock, and residents had informed him that the shop was in darkness at 10.30. To him the only solution was that thieves had gained an entry, and in using matches to inspect the shop had set fire to some of the goods. Presumably they had then decamped. His stock and fittings were insured with the Insurance Office of Australia, Limited, for £800, but he could not estimate the total damage without going through his books. Those, fortunately, were in a back room, and had been saved. Mr. Triplow estimated the damage to his stock at from £40 to £50. The whole of the goods on the top shelves round the shop were damaged by smoke and water. The buildings are insured for £600 with the Federal Mutual Insurance Company, Limited. The display windows and showcase in the front of the shop were completely destroyed. The ceiling and rafters were burned out, and the floor will have to be relaid.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 28 February 1928, page 13

CASUALTIES.

FIRE IN HOTEL.

At 16.45 p.m. on Monday, at the Hotel George, Light square, some one in a passage way threw a lighted match on to the floor, where some floor polish had been spilt. The polish blazed up, but the flames had been extinguished by the hotel staff by the time the fire brigade arrived.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 8 March 1928, page 7

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

A YEAR'S WORK REVIEWED.

The report of the Fire Brigades Board for 1927 states:—The head station property in Wakefield-street has been improved by the laying of slagetto paving in the yard and engine-room. Similar paving was also laid in front of the station to the watertable. A well was also put in under the tower stand in the station yard for drilling purposes and pump-testing. At the Semaphore Station a new concrete floor had been laid in the engine-room. The official opening of the new station at Balaklava took place on March 15. A contract for the erection of a new station at Tanunda on the site of the present station has been let and work begun. For the purpose of providing a more up-to-date station to serve the Norwood fire district, the board has purchased a block of land on the Parade, Norwood. It is expected that building operations will be commenced at an early date. A new fire district, consisting of the whole of the districts of Prospect and Walkerville and certain sections of the district of Yatala South, has been constituted, and a station to serve the district is now in course of erection on the Main North-road, Enfield. On August 26 the board received a deputation, representative of the Employes and Australian Government Workers' Association, to hear a request for the introduction of the platoon or shift system. The board gave the request consideration, and after making full enquiries resolved that, apart from the large extra cost that would be entailed, the introduction of the shift system would not be in the best interests of the brigades, nor of the men themselves, and consequently the request could not be acceded to.

Inspections of city, suburban, and country stations were made by the board during the year, and the brigades were found to be working satisfactorily and efficiently. The board expresses regret at the death of Mr. R. F. Jacobs, one of the representatives on the board for the contributory companies, which took place on October 12. Mr. Jacobs rendered valuable service during his eight months' term of membership. Mr. A. M. Ashwin was nominated by the contributory companies in November to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Jacobs, and was appointed. Mr. W. P. Murray (a representative of the contributory companies) and Councillor J. R. Cain (representing the City of Adelaide) retired from the board by the effluxion of time. Mr. W. E. Coombs was appointed in the place of the former, and Councillor Cain was reappointed. The report of the Chief Officer (Mr. J. E. Dickie) states:—During the year 706 calls were received, a decrease of five compared with the preceding year. Calls are classified as follows: —Serious damage 17, considerable damage 99, slight damage 201, grass and rubbish fires 218, chimney fires 23, justified alarms 17, line faults 60, malicious false alarms 71. Compared with the previous year there is a decrease of one of serious damage, an increase of 30 of considerable damage, an increase of 52 slight damage, a decrease of 52 grass and rubbish fires, a decrease of 9 justified alarms, an increase of 1 line faults, and a decrease of 28 malicious false alarms. The authorised strength of the brigade is 107 permanent firemen, 45 auxiliary firemen, and 42 theatre ancillary firemen. The motor ambulance stationed at the Port Adelaide Fire Station attended 510 calls during the year. A number of poles to which fire alarms were affixed have been removed and iron pillar standard alarms have been installed in their place. Only one burning accident occurred to an occupant of premises which were alight. The officers and members of the Police Force, the Waterworks Department, and the Electric Supply Company, rendered valuable assistance to the brigade.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 10 March 1928, page 43

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

During 1927, 706 calls were received by fire stations, according to the report of Chief Officer J. E. Dickie contained in the annual report of the Fire Brigades Board. Of this number a decrease of five as compared with the previous year 148 were false alarms, 60 having been due to line faults, and 17 justified by the circumstances of the case. However, the number of malicious false alarms decreased by 28. The authorised strength of the brigade is now 107 permanent firemen, 45 auxiliary firemen, and 42 theatre auxiliary firemen. In his report in behalf of the board the chairman (Mr. E. Frinsdorf) records the establishment of a new station at Balaklava, and states that a contract for the erection of a new station at Tanunda has been let, and that it is expected that a new station will shortly be provided at Norwood. A station to serve the Prospect and Walkerville fire district and portion of the Yatala South district is being erected on the Main North road, Enfield. Of the 553 fires reported last year, 278 occurred in November, December, and January.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 10 March 1928, page 4

Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to extinguish a small outbreak of burning rubbish at Toms court, off Halifax street, Adelaide, shortly before 3 o'clock this afternoon.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 15 March 1928, page 3

FIRE BRIGADE EMPLOYEES

More Time Off Wanted

Employees of the South Australian Fire Brigades Board are stated to be restless because of long hours on duty. Mr. F. K. Nieass (secretary of the Australian Government Workers' Association) stated today that they recently approached the board through the association asking for the introduction of the platoon system, but the board could not agree to it, because of the extra expense it would entail. The men held further meetings, agreed to compromise, and decided to ask for one clear day off in every three, instead of the present one in four. That claim was submitted to the Fire Brigades Board, and Mr. Nieass has received a reply stating that the letter came before the board, but as there was not a full meeting consideration was deferred until March 23.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 17 March 1928, page 15

CURRIE STREET FIRE

Electrical Goods Burned

QUICK WORK BY BRIGADE

Fire damaged the premises at 100 Currie street occupied by Messrs. Unbehaun & Johnstone, electrical engineers, at 1.10 o'clock this afternoon.

The fire brigade was on the scene before the alarm broken by a passerby had told its tale. Practically the whole of the third floor was ruined, together with its contents, and much damage by water resulted on the second and ground floors. By 1.20 o'clock Currie street was enveloped in a cloud of smoke, and many who had intended doing honor to St. Patrick forgot their mission and stood by. A large force of police kept the crowd from encroaching on the ground on which the firemen were working. At 1.25 o'clock the fire had a strong hold, and volumes of dense black smoke were wafted from the roof by the breeze that had fanned the flames into tongues of fire which licked at the back portion of the roof, and spread finally to the front of the building.

Lift Falls

At 1.27 o'clock the lift fell from its moorings at the top floor and crashed to the basement. The flames at the rear of the building increased in intensity, but firemen, by a steady flow of water, kept the blaze in check. So fierce was the fire at one time that the police moved the crowd back to the opposite pavement lest the front wall should collapse. Mr. E. A. Johnstone, a partner in the firm, arrived at the scene of devastation at 1.30 o'clock. In a hurried interview he said: — "Everything was intact when the premises were closed. I am too stunned to say much. The building and the stock were covered by insurance. We were lucky in that we had just installed a new safe on the ground floor, and that all our papers were deposited there before the outbreak. We hope they may be saved." Mr. Johnstone said later that both buildings and stock were insured with the Palatine Insurance Company, Limited. He could not ascertain the extent of the damage, nor could he say readily to what amount the firm was covered by insurance.

Premises Saved

Mr. H. B. Horswill, of Harrington's Photographic Works, which occupy the top floor of the adjoining building at 96 Currie street, was on the scene as soon as the fire started. Clouds of smoke and fumes led him to believe that his premises might be endangered. He lost no time

after the arrival of the brigade in clearing his rooms of all valuable material and important documents. As far as could be ascertained his offices suffered no damage. Mr. A. C. Crapp, of Crapp and Hawkes, Limited, occupying the ground floor of the same building as Mr. Horswill, and who carries on business as a hardware merchant, was early on the spot also. He quickly removed his books from his offices and placed them in his motor car. Mr. Crapp said he was sure that the concrete floor, which is about four inches thick, saved the building occupied by Messrs. Unbehaun & Johnstone from demolition. The fire seemed to begin on about the place where the lift would be. By 1.45 o'clock the blaze was under control, and most of the sightseers had dispersed.

Story of Chief Officer

Mr. G. Cooper, deputy chief officer of the Fire Brigade, said: —"We answered the call from the Currie street alarm and put the fire out. The blaze centred in the back of the building on the top floor."

An engine room was located in this area. The wooden interior of this floor was charred. Electrical stock on the first and second floors and a quantity of rubber material in the basement were more or less damaged by water. A fireman fighting the blaze narrowly escaped injury when a winding gear machine collapsed.



FIRE RAGING IN CITY THIS AFTERNOON.— Outbreak at premises of Messrs. Unbehaun & Johnstone, electrical engineers, 100 Currie street, Adelaide.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 19 March 1928, page 9

CITY FIRE AT ELECTRICAL OFFICES.

Unbehaun & Johnstone's Ablaze.

Fortunately the fire brigade was passing along Currie street on Saturday afternoon, and was ready to start work almost simultaneously with the call from the fire alarm from Messrs. Unbehaun and Johnstone's premises at the corner of Currie and Burnett streets. The fire was well alight at the rear of the building, and a good save was effected.

Top Floor Alight.

A man standing near to the premises, which contain electrical goods, noticed smoke and flames issuing from the top floor windows, and he ran to the fire alarm in front of the building at 1.10 o'clock. A reel dashed down Currie street, and hundreds of people followed instead of catching homeward-bound cars. Ten minutes later Currie street and the surrounding streets were enveloped in smoke. A cordon of police, in charge of Inspector T. O. Mattin, kept the onlookers from encroaching too near. At 1.23 o'clock, while the hose was being played on the top windows abutting on Burnett street, two firemen mounted a ladder at the rear of the building, and the first to ascend climbed through the window and directed the hose into the burning room. There are four windows looking northwards, and each was burning fiercely. So soon as the firemen in Burnett street played the water on one window, flames from the other again burst out. Up to that period the flames had been confined to the back rooms, but the fire forged through the roof and raced along to the front of the building.

Flames Fanned by Breeze.

The police cleared the crowd and kept the onlookers on the south side of Currie street, and all traffic was stopped. It was feared that perhaps a portion of the building might fall into the street. A fresh northerly breeze helped to fan the flames, and at 1.27 o'clock a loud noise betokened the fall of the winding gear at the rear of the structure. Soon the iron flagpole was in danger, for the intense heat had crumpled into twisted iron shapes the name of the firm above the roof. The ladder was placed against the western wall, and firemen ascended with the object of directing a volume of water to arrest the flames, which for a moment threatened to gut the entire building. Paper cinders and soot were being wafted on the breeze into Currie street, and a motor was being utilized for the storing of books and valuable documents from the office of Messrs. Crapp & Hawkes by Mr. A. C. Crapp. Mr. H. B. Horswill, of Messrs. Harrington's, was also busily engaged. Films and other articles were transferred, but happily there was no real danger of the fire getting out of hand and spreading to the offices of the firms mentioned. The wind blew a smoke-begrimed sheet of iron down into Burnett street, and a cry of alarm apprised the firemen of the danger. They huddled close to the wall of the Hassell Press Building, and fortunately, although the iron struck a fireman, none were injured. The flames were still licking the flagpole, which, however, held its stand. The heat cracked two windows at the front of the building, and the glass fell with a clatter to the pavement.

Blaze Controlled.

The flames were then bursting through the roof at the top left hand corner of the front of the building, but a deluge of water got it under control. At 1.35 a fireman walked along the

roof to the flagpole to inspect it, but another, who went on the roof, had his fingers severely burned. At times the water was squirted right over the building and across Currie street, spraying the onlookers. Mr. W. Johnstone, the works manager, opened the front door and turned off the switches. Water was then running through the building and flooding the basement. An hour after the alarm was given the firemen had ceased work.

Building Insured.

Mr. B. A. Johnstone, the principal of the firm, who was present, when interviewed, said the last of the employes had left the building about 12.10 o'clock, and the place was then secure. The new safe on the ground floor had proved advantageous. The buildings and stock were fully insured with the Palatine Insurance Company, Limited, but it was impossible to estimate the damage owing to the amount of water inside the structure. Much valuable stock was probably ruined. The building is a three-storied structure, including large basement storerooms. The top rooms are of brick built on stone, but the rear portion is composed entirely of brick. Deputy Chief Station Officer G. Cooper said that the blaze had centred at the rear of the building on the top floor, and after an inspection several large charred beams were discovered mixed up with the winding gear, which had broken away. A fireman had narrowly escaped serious injury. The wooden interior of the building was considerably charred and blackened. Messrs. Harrington's occupy the top floor of the adjoining premises on the east side of the building, and Messrs. Crapp & Hawkes are in occupation of the ground floor. Mr. Crapp said that he had felt assured that the concrete floor of Unbehaun & Johnstone's would save the premises, but that he had thought it better to be in readiness to bring out everything possible in case the fire got out of hand.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 19 March 1928, page 14

FIRE IN THE CITY.



A GOOD SAVE.

Considerable damage was done to the upper floors of Messrs. Unbehaun & Johnstone's premises by a fire which broke out a few minutes after 1 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. The top floor was practically gutted before the Fire Brigade was able to subdue the flames. A large crowd was attracted to the scene by the volumes of black smoke which issued from the building.

Krischock. photo.



State Library of South Australia - Currie Street [B 9609], Currie Street, north side, right side of Patola building is 29.5 yards east of Burnett Street. Patolas building was erected during 1926-27. For a former view of the building see B 3728. Hassell Press, Printer and Publishers' premises are on the west corner of Burnett Street. To the right of this stands Unbehaun and Johnstone Electrical Engineers. 1927. Photographer F. A Potts.



State Library of South Australia - Currie Street, near Burnett Street [B 5255], Currie Street, north side, three storey frontage of Unbehaun and Johnstone's is 13.5 yards. East corner of Burnett Street. August 1918. Unbehaun and Johnstone, at number 100-98, are electrical engineers. Next door stands William Adams and Company, engineers and furnishers. It is only two storeys tall. Both buildings are constructed from bluestone. 1918. Photographer, Francis Gabriel.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 19 March 1928, page 15

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

GARAGE AND TRUCK DESTROYED.

Shortly after 11 p.m. on Sunday a fire broke out in a garage in George-street, off O'Connell-street, North Adelaide. It was first noticed by Constable C. Would of North Adelaide, who gave the alarm, and a reel from the North Adelaide, supplemented by another from the central station, was quickly on the scene. A ton truck, the property of Mr. Thomas Brayshow, a secondhand dealer, of O'Connell-street, was in the garage, and appeared to be the seat of the fire, which was blazing fiercely when the brigade arrived. The fire was extinguished in less than a quarter of an hour, but it was found that the truck, which was valued at £200, had been ruined. The garage, the property of Mr. L. T. Parsons, of Cross-roads. Hawthorn, was also badly charred, the damage thereto being estimated as £50. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 22 March 1928, page 15

FIRE IN A SHED.

Through a bitumen plant at the rear of the works of Messrs. Ellis & Clark, electrical engineers, Franklin-street, Adelaide, becoming overheated on Tuesday afternoon a wood and iron shed was slightly damaged by fire. The Fire Brigade attended and prevented the fire from spreading.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 24 March 1928, page 54

FIRE IN THE CITY.



A GOOD SAVE.

Considerable damage was done to the upper floors of Messrs. Unbehaun & Johnstone's premises by a fire which broke out a few minutes after 1 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. The top floor was practically gutted before the Fire Brigade was able to subdue the flames. A large crowd was attracted to the scene by the volumes of black smoke which issued from the building.

Krischock, photo.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 24 March 1928, page 1

ALLEGED INCENDIARISM

Two Houses Set on Fire

CITY BRIGADE ACTS PROMPTLY

Two remarkable cases of alleged incendiarism occurred on South terrace, Adelaide, early this evening. In each instance the occupants of the house were absent, but the Fire Brigade, acting promptly, extinguished both outbreaks. In addition to one house being set on fire the place was ransacked and jewellery to the value of £40 stolen. The police have detained a man on suspicion.

An incendiary, it is supposed, was at work in Adelaide early tonight. Within an hour two houses on South terrace, about 300 yards apart, were broken into and then set alight. The first place was the home of Mr. S. J. Jenkins at No. 4 South terrace. Here the feather bed was

found to be alight, as well as a small chest of drawers. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins had gone to Woodville to vote, and the house was un-occupied. At five minutes past seven o'clock Mr. W. E. Back, of Eden Hills, was driving along South terrace in his car and he noticed the fire. After telling a man nearby to ring the brigade he rushed into the house. The front door was wide open. A lead-light had been broken at the side of the door and the lock turned. Mr. Back found the front bedroom full of smoke from the smouldering feather bed, and he pulled off the bedspread and pillow shams which were burning. He took these out on to the front lawn and returned to remove the drawer in the chest of drawers, the contents of which were burning. The Fire Brigade (under Station Officer Sayers) and Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins arrived almost simultaneously. The blaze was quickly extinguished. An investigation by Mr. Jenkins disclosed the fact that every room but one in the house had been ransacked, including the kitchen.

JEWELLERY MISSING

Mrs. Jenkins stated that jewellery to the value of nearly £40 was missing, but she could not say what else. The bedspread and pillow shams on the bed were valued highly from a sentimental as well as a monetary point of view. They were of crochet work and valued at £30. All were burned beyond repair. In the chest of drawers one drawer of which was burned, there were several hundred pounds worth of scrip. Fortunately the fire did not spread any further than the drawer in which it was lighted. Detective Harrell and Plainclothes Constable Herman were on the scene promptly. While they were conducting their investigations Mr. G. F. Howard, who lives at No. 31 South terrace, came out of his home to buy a paper, and he noticed a man going into No. 27. The man was acting suspiciously and watching Mr. Howard as he went up the path to the front door. Mr. Howard had been home all day, and as he did not think anyone was at No. 27 he stood nearby and watched. Just then Mr. Back came along and told Mr. Howard to ring the fire brigade. At 7.50 Mr. J. J. Barker, of Colley terrace, Glenelg, was driving past No. 50, occupied by Mr. O. A. Kohler, optician, who is at present at Victor Harbor on a holiday, when he noticed flames and smoke issuing from the window of the front bedroom. Mr. Barker thought he heard children screaming, and he rushed in. The front door was wide open, but Mr. Barker could not get any farther on account of the dense smoke. He rang the fire brigade, which arrived smartly.

THREE ROOMS ALIGHT

Under Station Officer Griffen the brigade had the fire under control within a quarter of an hour. Mr. Griffen and Fireman Westall were the first two in the house, and they discovered that in addition to the front bedroom, which was burning fiercely, the dining room and spare bedroom were also alight. Three separate fires had been started. In the dining room a large blackwood mantel-piece had been burned completely, and in the spare bedroom the washstand was found to be well alight. The front bedroom was gutted. The ceiling was burned through and the furniture almost completely destroyed. All that was left when the fire was got under control were the end pieces of the wooden bedstead and portion of the dressing table. It was found here that similarly to Mr. Jenkins' residence the leadlight near the front door had been broken and the latch turned. The damage cannot be estimated on account of the absence of Mr. Kohler, nor can it be stated whether anything has been stolen. Inspector Howie and Constable Thomas were on the scene shortly after the outbreak, and

they were later joined by Detective Harrell and Plainclothes Constable Herman. The police are confident that both crimes were the work of the same person.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 3 April 1928, page 1

TWO SERIOUS CHARGES

Alleged Arson and Breaking

MAN TO STAND TRIAL

Francis Emsley appeared in No. 1 Adelaide Police Court this morning to answer charges of having maliciously set fire to the house of Otto Alfred Kohler, optician, of South terrace, Adelaide, on the evening of Saturday, March 24, and of having stolen from the premises a wristlet watch, ring, gold chain, and a number of knives and other articles belonging to Mary Isabel Kohler. Accused, who reserved his defence, was committed for trial. Emsley, it is alleged, said to Detective Francis and Plainclothes Constable Miller at the City Watchhouse on the night of the alleged offences, "I must have been mad to do it. I wish I could get bail and let Dr. Downey examine me." Mr. H. Allchurch (Police Prosecutor) said that on the day mentioned Mr. and Mrs. Kohler left their house with their family, and on returning after midnight they found that the place had been burned, and was in charge of the police. Meanwhile accused was seen at Prospect by Constables Sparshott and Kschammer. Later he was questioned by Detective Francis and Constable Miller, who wanted to know how some knives similar to those missed from the house of Mr. Kohler had come into his possession. In the first place, accused said that he obtained the knives from his mother, but when the officers said that they would visit her, Emsley stated that they came from a man he met in Adelaide. He did not know his name, and had never seen him before. Damage About £1,000 In evidence Mr. Kohler said that he estimated the damage caused by fire to the house and contents at £800 to £1,000.

Alfred Griffin, station officer at Adelaide Fire Brigade, said that the brigade received a call to the house at 7.51 o'clock in the evening. On arrival flames were shooting from a front window, and the front door was open. There were separate fires in the front bedroom, back bedroom, and dining room, and they were not connected with one another. Drawers had been pulled out in each room, and the house had the appearance of having been ransacked. Witness drew the attention of Inspector Howie to the suspicious appearances of the fire. Constable Miller said that after Emsley was questioned and brought to the City Watchhouse the police officers returned to Prospect, where they searched the back yard of the Windmill Hotel. There they found jewellery and binoculars on the ground. Asked to explain how they got there, accused said that he dropped them on the ground when the constables came toward him earlier in the evening. Mr. V. R. Millhouse appeared for accused.

Further Counts

Emsley was then charged with having set fire to a bedstead, bedding, and other property of Solomon James Jenkins, of South terrace, Adelaide, on the same night, and with having broken and entered the premises and stolen three bangles, four rings, and an ornament worth £30 belonging to Elizabeth Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins estimated the damage at £105. Accused was committed for trial. He reserved his defence. Bail was allowed in a personal bond of £50 and two sureties of £25 each on each of four charges.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 10 April 1928, page 1

Motor Lorry on Fire

Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call by telephone at 9.48 o'clock this morning to Johns street, off Wright street, where a motor lorry had caught alight following a backfire. The engine of the vehicle, which is owned by the Central Provision Stores, was slightly damaged.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 10 April 1928, page 1

ARSON SUSPECTED

One Shop Destroyed and Five Damaged

Thieves are believed to have been responsible for a fire which occurred in a drapery and millinery shop and dwelling in Hanson street, Adelaide, at 2 o'clock this morning. The shop was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Max Krantz, who were away at Oakbank for the night. They returned at 8 o'clock this morning to find that the shop, which is one of a row of eight, owned by Mr. M. Bernstein had been destroyed. Five others had been damaged.

Damage to the stock alone is said to be £500. No estimate has been reached of the damage to the shop of Mr. Krantz and the others, but they are insured for £6,000 with the Palatine Insurance Company, Limited. The stock is also covered by insurance. The fire brigade received a call from the Hurtle square alarm at 2 o'clock. The blaze was soon under control. The fire had begun in and was confined to the shop, although a piano and some machines in an adjoining room were scorched. The firemen found that the back door leading into the living quarters of the premises had been forced open. Two doors separating other rooms, which had also been locked, had been broken open. Three men were seen to leave the shop hurriedly shortly before the alarm was given. They jumped into a motor car and drove quickly away. The shop of Mr. Bernstein, who is a stationer and newsagent, adjoins that of Mr. Krantz. His stock was damaged by smoke and water, and the glass of the window cracked by the heat. On the southern side the ham and beef shop of Mr. G. E. Adams suffered in a similar manner. The occupier was awakened by the sound of crashing glass. He thought at first that it had been caused by thieves, but apparently it was the heat of the fire inside. Only two shops in the row escaped damage. Constable E. Davies is making enquiries. He will furnish a report to the City Coroner.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 14 April 1928, page 52

"FIRE!"

Minimising Its Perils.

Valuable Centralization Scheme.

Little does the layman sleeping soundly in his bed o' nights, or working serenely in his office or factory by day, realize the extent to which modernization of methods and equipment has reduced the dread significance which once attached to the panic cry of "Fire!"

"Every man to his own job" is an old saying of considerable wisdom; but while it may be only natural that one-half of the community knows not how the other half lives and works, it is a good thing that those enjoying the benefits and safe-guards of an enlightened civilization should sometimes pause to gain a realization of what is being done for their benefit by those responsible for maintaining the efficiency of the public's essential services. In the forefront of these is our fire brigade organization—a modern, progressive, and up-to-the-mark

institution which in proportion to size and services rendered, is the envy of more than one of our sister States. Capable as the brigade has always proved in responding to the severest tests placed upon it, however, those responsible for its organization never halt in the march towards still greater efficiency, and now The Register learns that a valuable and important proposal is in course of being given effect to—centralization of control.

Direction of Force.

By this is meant that the disposal of all the Metropolitan Fire Brigades' —forces with the exception of Port Adelaide, which may be treated as a separate area—may be regulated from the head station, and every street alarm call, even from a suburb, may automatically go straight to Adelaide, and from there by direct line to the nearest out-station. The benefits of such a scheme combine both economy, and better service. To explain further. At each suburban station—again excepting Port Adelaide— there is one appliance and a crew of five men, one of whom is on leave each day in rotation. When a call to a fire is received from an alarm, out they go, leaving the station empty, because a man cannot be spared to stay behind. Before they go, of course, the head station is notified; but should another call be shortly afterwards made to the same station, there is nobody there to answer it. Subsequently the anxious caller rings up Adelaide, but even then the lapse of a few precious minutes means a great deal when the fire fiend has to be dealt with. As is only natural, the possibilities of such a situation have provided more than a little food for thought to insurance companies and fire underwriters. These, while paying five-ninths of the cost of the upkeep of the whole of the South Australian fire brigades, have felt that they should get something more for their money. To go a little deeper into the matter—the Unley station is connected to 30 street alarms, Norwood to 38, Thebarton to 21, North Adelaide to 8 (Adelaide also covering part of this area), Semaphore to 20, Port Adelaide to 31, and Glenelg to 18. Adelaide has 81. In addition, a new station at Prospect is nearing completion.

There have also been many private automatic, thermostatic, and sprinkler alarms in warehouses, shops, &c., which connected direct to suburban stations; so that when a fire broke out, even the smallest amount of heat generated in any part of the premises automatically set the apparatus working, rang a bell, and dropped a shutter on the board at the nearest fire station.

Solving the Problem.

The first step toward the desired goal of centralization has already been taken, the Fire Brigades Board having approved of all private automatic alarms being removed from suburban stations, and connected direct to the board in headquarters in Wakefield street. The next logical step, and one which fire underwriters regard favourably, is to connect all suburban street alarms direct to the head station. No technical or expert knowledge is required to enable one to appreciate the advantages of such a common-sense scheme—they are obvious to any layman. It would mean that no matter how many alarms were rung within a few minutes of each other in any suburb, they would not ring at an empty station, but at headquarters, where reserve appliances are standing ready. Thus the chief officer would know the exact location of all his forces, and generally would have a much better grip of the situation than is possible under the present conditions. Another advantage is that outlying districts—such as Mitcham, for example which are as yet not served by any brigade, could be provided with street alarms without the necessity of erecting a new station there.

In the case of Port Adelaide, it could become a centralized district of itself, with all the Semaphore station's street alarms connected direct to it.

It has been learned from reliable outside sources that this scheme is receiving the earnest consideration of the Fire Brigades Board and the Fire Underwriters' Association. The brigade's own electrical staff and mechanics could perform all the necessary board work in the stations, so that all that the Postmaster-General's Department would have to do would be the line work, and as direct lines are already in existence, the task would not be great. It is stated that the Deputy Postmaster General's Department has advised the board that there are no difficulties in the way.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 14 April 1928, page 19

SAFE BREAKERS.

GARAGE ENTERED IN LIGHT-SQUARE.

At an early hour this morning thieves broke into a garage owned by Drummond's Autos, of Light-square, and blew open a safe on the premises. The noise of the explosion was heard for some distance, and the Fire Brigade was summoned. An investigation showed that the garage had been broken into and the safe blown open. The amount taken is not known. A motorist was driving along Currie-street in a westerly direction shortly before 1 a m., and when at the western corner of Light-square he heard the explosion. He went to the front of the show-rooms and saw torch lights. He left a companion to watch the persons inside the premises, and went to Hindley-street and picked up Constable Bradey, who had also heard the explosion and was running towards the scene. The officer looked through the front window and saw three short men leaving by the back entrance. He ran round in time to see the last man jumping the high fence and going towards Currie-street. They got away. The fire brigade were not needed. An iron safe measuring about 6 ft. high and 3 ft. wide had been blown open, and money (the exact amount is not known) was taken from a cash-box. The proprietor of the garage (Mr. H. M. Drummond) stated that early last night he removed over £100 from the safe and took it to his home.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 17 April 1928, page 1

FAILED TO EXPLODE

GELIGNITE IN KEYHOLE

Safeblowers in City

An attempt to blow open a safe in the office of Daniel Clifford Theatres, Limited, King William street, Adelaide, early this morning resulted in a fire breaking out. The safe was not opened, and the fire was discovered by the woman who cleans the office when she arrived at 6.30 o'clock this morning. The fire brigade was called and extinguished the blaze without any difficulty. The damage is estimated at £10. An entrance to the building was gained by climbing over a back gate and forcing a window at the rear. After placing gelignite in the keyhole of the safe and attaching a fuse and detonator, they piled books, papers, straw, and a spare picture screen round to deaden the sound. The fuse was lighted, and apparently the thieves left the building to wait for the explosion. No explosion occurred, but a loud noise was heard by neighbors about 6.30 o'clock. Either this frightened the marauders or they were disturbed by something else, for they did not go back to see the reason for the charge

not exploding. In the meantime the fuse had dropped from the keyhole on to the papers piled round the safe. This started to smoulder, and when the cleaner, arrived there was a cloud of smoke in the inner office. She informed Mr. H. Streatfield, who lives next door. He summoned the fire brigade. When the police arrived the safe was warm and the gelignite still in the key hole. Portion of the fuse and the detonator were found in the back yard, where the firemen had thrown it with the smouldering papers. The skirting board of the wall was charred, and the wallpaper scorched and blackened by smoke. A clock which had been standing in the safe was burned. Nothing was stolen. The safe contained about £5 in small change. Three men were seen in Pinkmore place—a lane at the rear—about 11 o'clock last night.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 20 April 1928, page 10

EFFICIENT FIREMEN.

BOARD PLEASED WITH INSPECTION.

SMART PERFORMANCES RECORDED.

Being on the way towards completion of their inspection of country and suburban fire stations, members of the Fire Brigades Board are highly pleased with the efficiency of both the men and their equipment.

The inspection was begun in March, and although a few centres yet remain to be visited, enough has been seen to impress even the layman with the standard of excellence reached, and the enthusiasm of the men in their work. The chief officer of the South Australian Fire Brigades (Mr. J. E. Dickie) was accompanied on his visits by all the members of the board, comprising Messrs. E. Frinsdorf (chairman), A. M. Ashwin, and W. Coombe (representing the insurance companies, who pay five-ninths of the cost of the fire services in the State), J. R. Cain (representing the City Council), and R. Hawke (suburban and country municipalities in which the Act applies).

All Board Members Present.

A representative of The Register sought out Mr. Dickie on Thursday and secured interesting details of the results of the inspection. "I am very well satisfied," he said, "with what I have seen, and it is apparent that the standard of efficiency is increasing from year to year." "At each of the centres visited, test alarms were given without the men being in any way specially prepared for them, and the outcome reflected great credit upon those responsible for the maintenance of such an important branch of the State's essential services.

Circumstances, of course, varied in several cases, and it must not be thought that the trials were in any way competitive, for the appliances had to travel further in some cases than in others. Reviewing the performances put up, however, one secures a comfortable feeling that the community to-day possesses a degree of protection from the fire fiend which is as near perfect as one can well nigh expect. Take the case of the head station itself. An alarm was suddenly given at the door at 9.5 a.m. on March 23. The first appliance was out in 20 seconds, and five appliances were on the road in 40 seconds. And yet that was just a normal performance—the every-day manner in which the firefighters go about their duty. Then another example—Port Adelaide—the next biggest station in the State. A call was put through from Commercial road, and an appliance, with the district and two station officers,

was on the spot within one minute 45 seconds, the hoses were out, and the water was on within another 18 seconds!

Impressive Performances.

It would take too long to deal at length with all of the smart performances put up, but the following brief record speaks for itself:—

Unley.— Call from Victoria street. Appliance with station officer arrived in 2m. 30s., water on in 2m. 45s.

Norwood.— Call from Norwood parade. Appliance and station officer and three men arrived in 1m. 40s., water on in 1m. 50s.

North Adelaide.— Call from Melbourne street. Appliance with station officer and two men arrived in 2m. 30s., water on in 2m, 48s.

Thebarton.— Call from town hall. Appliance and four men arrived in 2m., water on in 2m. 22s.

Semaphore.— Call from Coppin street. Appliance with station officer and one man arrived in 1m. 50s., water on in 2m. 20s.

Glenelg.—Call from St. Leonards. Appliance with station officer and two men arrived in 1m. 50s., water on in 2m. 27s.

Port Pirie.—Call from Ellen street. Appliance with station officer and six men arrived in 2m. 25s., water on in 2m. 25s.

Port Augusta.— Call from Tassie street. Appliance with foreman and two men arrived in 1m. 20s., water on in 1m. 55s.

Burra:— Call from Thomas's mill by telephone. Appliance with foreman and two men arrived in 4m. 10s., water on in 4m. 52s.

Balaklava.— Call from Main street. Appliance with foreman and two men arrived in 2m. 35s., water on in 3m. 20s.

Renmark.— Call from Renmark Hotel. Appliance with foreman and three men arrived in 2m. 2s., water on in 2m. 47s.

Berri.— Call from Riverside Hotel. Appliance with foreman and three men arrived in 3m., water on in 3m. 40s.

Gawler.— Call from council chamber. Appliance with station officer and one man arrived in 1m. 50s., water on in 2m. 30s.

Tanunda.— Call from Barossa News Office. Appliance with foreman and two men arrived in 1m. 50s., water on in 2m. 20s.

Kapunda.—Call from Main street. Appliance with foreman and three men arrived in 1m. 30s., water on in 1m. 49s.

An Effective System.

A feature which makes all the more praiseworthy the performances of the country services is that with the exception of Gawler and Port Pirie, the stations are only auxiliary services, namely— they are run by partly paid men, who are more than likely engaged at their ordinary daily avocation some distance from the station when the alarm is given. The rapidity with which calls are attended to, however, is partly due to the effective system in operation. In country towns working with a partly paid staff, and having no street alarms, an electric siren is installed at the fire station to call the men together. This is heard practically all over the town, and is a vast improvement on the old alarm gong or bell. The siren is operated from the town's electric supply, with an automatic change-over switch, so that in

the event of the supply failing, it cuts in a gong operated from a battery. An arrangement is in existence with the local post offices whereby the telephone operator will only ring the fire station on these lines in the event of a fire call being received, the location of the fire being given to the fireman first answering the telephone call. This allows of every telephone subscriber in the town being able to notify the brigade in case of fire. The siren continues to send its warning out over the township until a fireman attends the station and switches it off.

In the City Area.

While on the general subject of fires, the following facts, obtained from various sources, should be interesting to members of the community. The metropolitan area protected under the Fire Brigades Act, comprises 61,760 acres. The assessment of property in the metropolitan area totals £4,105,799 according to the most recently compiled figures. The population of the metropolitan area is 297,271. The principal risks in connection with the work of firemen, are shipping, wharfs, dock bond stores, warehouses, and factories. There are 106 professional firemen, 45 partially paid auxiliary firemen, 42 theatre firemen, making a total, with officers and men of all ranks, of 193.

The amount of insurance on property actually affected by fire during 1926 was £677,570. The cost of the brigade services, calculated on figures for 1926, is about £52,276, of which the Government contribute about £11,616, and the insurance companies about £29,042. At present, however, the insurance companies contribute five-ninths of the total, which would be more than that stated above. There are 10 fire stations in the metropolitan area, including the fire float at Port Adelaide, and 15 in principal country towns. A new station is nearing completion at Prospect.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 21 April 1928, page 25

FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE.

PRIVATE RESIDENCE DAMAGED

Considerable damage was done to three rooms on the top floor of a two-storey house in Stanley-street, North Adelaide, by a fire which occurred late on Friday afternoon. The premises are occupied by Mr. J. L. Sanford, and are owned by the Executor Trustee & Agency Company, Grenfell-street, Adelaide. It is not known how the outbreak was caused, but it started in a bedroom at the rear of the upper floor, and quickly spread to two other rooms, which are used as sleeping-out compartments. The contents of the rooms, including several beds and other furniture, were severely damaged. The rooms and their contents on the lower floor were damaged by smoke and water. The North Adelaide fire brigade, which was summoned at 4.5 p.m. found on arrival, that the fire had a good hold. Assistance was secured from the head station. The property destroyed was covered by insurance in the Sun Insurance Company. Neighbors and the police assisted in the removal of furniture from the house, and in this way much property was saved.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 5 May 1928, page 21

ENEMIES OF THE FIRE FIEND—ADELAIDE'S EFFICIENT BRIGADE.



For its size, there is no more up-to-date and effective fire brigade in the Commonwealth than that in Adelaide. Its equipment is modern, its men are splendidly trained, and its officers are men of experience and proved ability. The brigade, under Chief Officer J. E. Dickie, is constantly being improved, and the record of its performances is ample testimony to its value and efficiency in a growing community. Among the appliances shown in the group on the left, are three motor pump carriages, capable of drawing water from the mains or any other available supply, and sending it out in three deliveries at a pressure of 120 lb. to the square inch. There is also a hose carriage, salvage wagon, motor trailer and ladder, currie ladder, standby appliance for relieving or assisting suburban stations, and the big turntable motor ladder capable of reaching a height of 90 ft. This is shown about half-extended in the photograph, and is proving increasingly valuable in a city which is rapidly growing towards the sky in the hands of the builder. The head station staff comprises 43 officers and men.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 18 May 1928, page 19

PETROL ALIGHT.

About 3.15 p.m. on Thursday the Fire Brigade was summoned to the corner of Pirie and Ackland streets, Adelaide, where, in the Petrol depot of Mr. H. C. Sleigh, a quantity of petrol and kerosine was burning. It was contained in tins packed together in cases. It was feared that an explosion, which would have severely damaged the premises, would occur, but the brigade was able to extinguish the blaze quickly, and the building was not damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 19 May 1928, page 10

FIRE BRIGADE EMPLOYEES.

Negotiations are proceeding between the Fire Brigade Board and the Government General Workers' Association, of which body the fire brigade employes are members, concerning improved conditions at the fire-station. Representatives of the men waited upon the board recently, and it was intended by the board to discuss the matters with the men at the station, but the men took up the position that they would not be prepared to enter into any discussion unless the union representatives were present. It was later announced that the proposed meeting with the men would not be held. The board held its ordinary meeting on Friday, and a special meeting of the men, convened by the secretary of the A.G.W.A. (Mr. F. K. Neass) will be held at the Adelaide Fire Station on Sunday morning, when the position will again be discussed.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 23 May 1928, page 11

CASUALTIES.

FIRE IN SHOW WINDOW.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade sent two reels in answer to a call to Charles Birks and Co., Limited, Rundle street, shortly after 7 p.m. on Tuesday. An electric wire in one of the display windows had fused, and caused a small blaze. Little damage was done. The blaze attracted a big crowd of theatre patrons in Rundle street.



State Library of South Australia - Rundle Street [B 8345], Rundle Street, north side, Centenary Celebrations on Birks building showing floral decorations, Union Jacks and Australian flags, and a banner stating "100 Years of Progress" which was the theme of the Pageant held on 22 December. This was a grand celebration considering the Depression of 1929-34 had just occurred. 1936. Part of Acre 44 Collection.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 24 May 1928, page 5

Motor Car on Fire

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was called out this morning to extinguish a fire in a motor car near the City Bridge, in King William street. A footboard of the car had caught fire. Little damage was done.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 26 May 1928, page 10

SMOKE, BUT NO FIRE

Brigade Called Out

With the engine smoking because of a broken fan belt, a Checker cab drove up to the company parking area in front of Bowman Buildings, King William street, at 9 o'clock tonight. An unknown person nearby, seeing the smoke, and becoming alarmed, sounded the fire alarm. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade answered the call, and a large number of people gathered, but it was a case of smoke without any fire.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 28 May 1928, page 9

5CL GUTTED.

FIRE IN STUDIO.

THOUSANDS OF POUNDS DAMAGE.

Station 5CL broadcasting studio in Franklin street, was gutted by fire late on Sunday night, resulting in damage to the extent of several thousands of pounds.

About 11.30 o'clock a stranger called at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in a motor car and announced that 5CL was on fire. Afterwards the station received a ring from the G.P.O. fire alarm. Three reels were dispatched in charge of Deputy Station Officer Cooper, and within five minutes of their arrival the blaze was under control. The building was occupied on the ground floor by J. C. Lyall, Limited, general merchants and indentors, and Central Broadcasters, Limited (5CL), used the first floor as offices and a broadcasting studio. Practically all the contents of the building were consumed by the flames, although the artists' room at the studio, suffered chiefly from heat and smoke. It is believed that the blaze originated on the ground floor and burned through to the top. When the brigade arrived, the ceiling of this floor was blazing fiercely. Little remains in J. C. Lyall, Limited's premises, but a mass of charred sports goods, and fancy wares. Office appointments and furniture were destroyed. The flames did not reach the basement, but much damage was done by water.

Destruction in the Studio.

It was in the broadcasting studio above however, that the greatest damage appeared to have been done. The control unit, comprising the speech input and amplifier, valued at £1,000, was completely destroyed. The rooms at the rear containing the papers and appointments of the company's registered office, suffered much. The lounge, expensively furnished with valuable carpets and upholstered furniture, was wrecked. The room from where the artists broadcast suffered least, but heat badly damaged wireless instruments and furniture, including a valuable grand piano, which is believed to be of little further use to the

studio. The extent of the damage is not known, but an official of 5CL estimated it at several thousands of pounds.

A Light Seen.

Mr. C. M. Hosking (director of publicity of 3LO, Melbourne), who, since last Wednesday has temporarily taken over the management of the studio, was early on the scene. He stated that he left the building, and locked up, that night at 10 o'clock. The studio had been in perfect order, and no one had been smoking there; as smoking was prohibited in all parts of the studio. As he was coming away, however, he had noticed a light in one of the lower offices. Mr. Athol Lykke, the studio announcer, also arrived, and affirmed that the building had been in order when he had left it.

Will Carry On.

Asked to what extent the fire would interrupt the broadcasting services of 5CL, Mr. Hosking said that they would do their best to carry on without a break in the programmes. At such a time they could show what it was possible to do. The transmitting station at Brooklyn Park would probably be used as a temporary studio. The control panel which had been destroyed was the most important part of the station, but he would send over to 3LO for a duplicate, which would arrive in the shortest possible time. He had arranged to wire up the Theatre Royal the following day (Monday) in order to broadcast an address by Mr. James Hay from his dressing room, and also portion of the comic opera "Lilac Time," The fire, however, owing to the intricacies of the wiring, which was direct from the theatre to the station, would probably delay the transmission from the theatre for a few days, but he hoped that that was the only way in which the programmes would be affected.



B 64050 Reproduction rights: State Library of South Australia

*State Library of South Australia - Corner of Wakefield Street and Victoria Square [B 64050],
ACRE 338: The southern side of the intersection of Victoria Square and Wakefield Street,
showing the premises of the Cathedral Church of St. Francis Xavier. Old 5CL Radio Station in
foreground. Approximately 1936. Part of Acre 338 Collection.*

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 28 May 1928, page 11

SUNDAY MORNING FIRES.

ROAD-MAKING PLANT ALIGHT.

About 6.30 on Sunday morning the Adelaide Fire Brigade were called to the Keswick railway-station, where it was found that a fire had broken out in the bituminous concrete road-making plant installed nearby. The fire, which had been apparently caused by spontaneous combustion, had made little headway when the brigade arrived, and was extinguished without much damage being done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 9 June 1928, page 8

Fireman Injured

Mr. Alfred Sandison, aged 29, a fireman employed by the South Australian Fire Brigade, was admitted to Adelaide Hospital early this morning suffering with a fractured right arm. He was reported to have received the injury while cranking a motor cart.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 27 June 1928, page 11

VIEWS AND COMMENTS.

THE FIRE BRIGADE AND THE CAT.

From "A READER," Adelaide:—Your sympathetic paragraph regarding the rescue of the cat from the premises of Messrs. Colton, Palmer & Preston will be read with interest and pleasure by thousands of your readers. The employees of the firm, the police, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the fire brigade all assisted in the rescue of a stray cat, and it is to their lasting credit. I am sending the paragraph to Mr. Arthur Mee, of the "Children's Newspaper," so that the children of the world may know how kindly disposed are the people of Adelaide, and how a newspaper is willing to applaud an action that certainly proves that the world is growing better every day.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 30 June 1928, page 12



ALARM ROOM AT HEADQUARTERS OF FIRE BRIGADE.— At the switchboard is Mr. T. Meaney.

FIREFIGHTERS

How Brave Men Work

RECORD OF BRIGADE

(By M. R. Afford)

Recent fires in and round Adelaide have temporarily focused the eyes of the community on the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Of the many thousands who pass its doors few are aware of the nature of the equipment it contains.

Methods of firefighting have improved greatly in the past few years, the advent of electricity helping to a great degree. It is a far cry from 1850 when water sellers filled their casks at the ford on the Torrens at Morphett street to today, when the spotless 40 horsepower motor truck is used. When an outbreak of fire occurs and a watchful citizen shatters the glass of the nearest alarm and rotates the handle, he has little idea of the process he sets in motion. Since the brigade can turn out, fully equipped, in less than a minute, it is quickly at the scene of the fire. The elaborate mechanism in the alarm room is something of a marvel to the visitor. A large frame contains 90 shutters, hinged at one end like the lid of a box. Each of these shutters represents the termination of an alarm wire, and behind each one is printed the name of its owner. The majority of names are those of business houses.

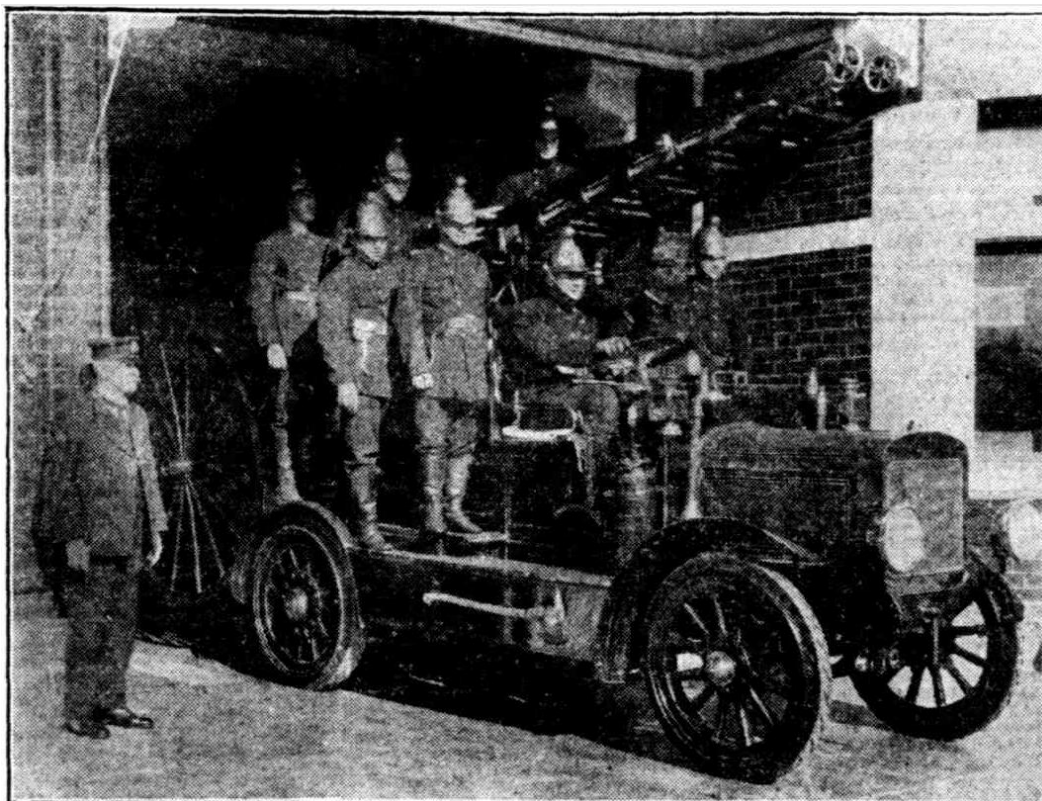
Immediate Alarm

If an outbreak occurs at any of these places an alarm is given and it immediately registers at brigade headquarters. In the alarm room a shrill insistent buzzing note attracts the attention

of the man on duty, and a shutter drops, revealing the name of the owner of the premises, and the movement sets in motion the huge gongs, while the electric siren at the rear of the building shrieks its warning note. Some idea of the power of this instrument can be gauged when it is stated that its tone could be heard far into the outlying suburbs. The men, thus warned, have donned tunic and helmet in one swift movement and stand awaiting orders. The room also houses the Grinnel alarm system, whose small, grey sprinklers are among the familiar sights of the more observant shopper. This system is technical to the highest degree, and such perfection demands skilled attention. The shutter alarm is tested twice a day to detect any fault that may occur in the mechanism. Neither system has failed for nearly 20 years. This appears somewhat astonishing, when official records show that there were more than 709 calls last year. The official gazetteer for 1850 states that in those days the first "waterman" to arrive at the scene of the fire was awarded the sum of £5. Under existing methods nothing is done haphazard. Every movement is planned with a minimum of time and labor. High in the centre of the outer wall is placed an electrically controlled sign board resembling at first glance a large frame of opaque glass. When the gongs sound every man's eye is turned toward this board. This sign is controlled from two switchboards. When the man on the lookout tower reports the extent of the conflagration, a touch of the switch by the chief officer sends the words "No. 1 truck," which appear in illuminated form on the opaque surface. This order is generally supplemented by another for the remainder of the men to "Stand by." If on reaching the scene of the fire the first truck finds the situation more dangerous than was at first imagined a report is put through and the order "No. 2 truck" sends that vehicle racing to the fire. The brigade has turned out fully manned in 40 seconds.

Grim Relics

A brigade motor truck presents an almost regal appearance with its glittering array of polished brassware, the gleaming mechanical pump, and the attendant fittings. It possesses a 45 ft. extension ladder folded into three sections, and 1,500 ft. of hosing, together with a number of nozzles for varying the pressure of the water. Lockers contain other equipment, the smoke helmet and apparatus, the jumping sheet, a box — securely locked — containing duplicate keys of many warehouses, and last, but not least, the ubiquitous first-aid outfit. Then there is the foam and soda acid extinguisher and the heavy fireman's axe. Among other equipment viewed is a 600-gallon Dennis motor pump with its peculiar strainers. These strainers are lengths of stout hose fitted at one end with a perforated metal box. This is dropped over the edge of a wharf or into a river, and the other end attached to the pumps. The perforated boxes strain the water clear of floating debris that would otherwise choke the delicate mechanism of the pumps. There is also a 90 ft. turntable-escape, used extensively for high buildings. Grim souvenirs are placed here and there on the walls. One of these was a huge ammonia cylinder weighing more than a hundredweight. It exploded during the blaze at the premises of Gambling and McDonald in Adelaide in 1917, and was thrown 376 ft. In contrast is the memorial garden, every plot of which commemorates a brave man killed in the execution of his duty. The trio of noble men who perished in the fatal City of Singapore fire are thus honored, and in every case a metal plate gives particulars of their sacrifice. This garden is tended solely by the men of the brigade.



READY FOR ACTION.— Men of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade ready for action with their powerful motor outfit. On the left is Deputy Chief Officer G. P. Cooper. Others in the photograph are (left to right):— Back Row—Messrs. J. Bawden, G. Guley, and G. Grey. Side— Messrs. H. Patton and F. Giles. Front— Messrs. T. M. Davis (driver), J. Koskee (station officer), and T. Mayfield.

Port Adelaide News (SA :1913 - 1933), Sunday 8 July 1928, page 6

SPECTACULAR FIRE AT BIRKENHEAD.

FLOUR MILL GUTTED.

BIG SAVE OF SHEDS AND STOCK.

FIREMEN'S GOOD WORK.

A fire broke out in the milling portion of the United Milling Co., at Rann Street, Birkenhead, in the early hours of Thursday morning, and the portion attacked and the contents, mainly expensive machinery, were destroyed. The mill and storage sheds connected with it occupied a block of land about 90 feet x 200 feet, with a frontage to Rann Street and running back to Walker Street at the rear, taking in the whole length of the block, leaving a drive right through on the eastern side of the premises, forming a lane about 27 feet wide. This helped to make a break for the fire from the adjoining residences to the east of the mill, a fortunate provision, as most of the houses nearby are of weatherboard. The adjoining properties were further safeguarded through the wind being from a north-easterly direction, carrying the flames back from the houses. On the Rann Street frontage is a tall galvanised iron store, then came the mill building, and another tall galvanised iron store which fronted Walker Street. The mill, occupying the centre portion, was separated from the two stores by a brick wall at each end, and to this may be attributed the fact that the

firemen were able to confine the fire to the mill and save valuable stock and wheat. At the western side of the Rann Street store, between the firm's brick building used as the office, was a stack of wheat about 18 feet-wide by 40 feet long and 25 feet high, covered with hessian. The mill building rose above the store sheds and must have been fully 50 feet high to the ridging. It was a three-storey building of wood and galvanised iron, and with the gable was practically a four-storey structure. It was about 38 feet wide by 50 feet long, the floors in order being used as the roller floor, purifying floor, and sifting floor. The power for the machinery was supplied by a 150 h.p. electric motor.

POLICE GIVE THE ALARM.

The fire was first reported by the police, acting visiting officer H. E. Edwards and Constables J. H. Bowley and W. Sutherland having seen the blaze from the port streets. That was about 12.40 am. The Port Adelaide Fire Brigade received word of the fire from the police by telephone. District Officer Butler called out the firefloat "Fire Queen," and also the Semaphore Brigade, who responded with their motor appliance. Mr. Butler took with him the Port station's Dennis pump and motor appliance, and later he was reinforced by another Dennis pump from Adelaide. In the meantime the alarm had been given by Mr. Keith J. Hams, of Martin Street, Birkenhead, who broke a street alarm in Rann Street, that communicated with the Semaphore Fire Brigade; but the brigade was well on its way when the alarm was received. On reaching the scene of the outbreak the firemen found the mill well alight, and blazing fiercely. The galvanised iron that formed the walls and roof was red hot. The building was alight on all floors, and from every opening existing flames were leaping out, lighting up the vicinity like day.

Poor Water Pressure.

The brigade lost no time in getting to the attack, but had it not been for the pumps and the supply obtained through the powerful "Fire Queen" from the river, they would have been powerless to have coped with the fire, so poor was the water supply from the mains. Only one hose could be coupled direct by hydrant to the main. Semaphore Brigade's Garford pump, feeding from a main, was put to work at the rear of the building in Walker Street. The main in Rann Street was tapped for a direct supply, and used, but the operations from Walker Street seemed to have weakened it, so that only the one hose, as stated, could be used from it. Other hose was got out from the two Dennis pumps, taking supplies from the river. Two 800 ft. lengths of hose were run from the Dennis pumps to the fire, and two 1,000 ft. lengths from the firefloat. In a remarkably short space of time the brigade had over 4,000 feet in use. In from five to seven minutes after their arrival the roof and top floor, with its machinery, fell in with a loud crash, sparks showering everywhere, and even reaching over to the works of General Motors (Aust.), Pty., Ltd., which is on the opposite side of Rann Street, and a considerable distance away. At this stage the flames were leaping fully 30 feet above the top of the walls of the high building, and could be seen from a great distance. Owing to the grip the fire had on the mill, the firemen had to concentrate their attention on confining it to the milling portion of the premises, and in preventing it spreading to the adjacent dwellings. To those who saw the fire, that Mr. Butler and his men were able to do this was held to be an achievement they might well be proud of. They had the fire under control about 35 minutes after their arrival. The save was a remarkable one. They kept the fire off the Rann street store with a considerable amount of wheat inside, and also away from

the stack of wheat on the western side of the store, although the stack was covered with thin hessian, around which the sparks from the mill frequently showered. The fire was also kept away from the store on the Walker Street side of the mill, which contained a considerable quantity of flour and pollard. Although necessarily the water got into both these stores, it did not seem to have done so to a very great extent.

Loss Probably About £20,000.

The destruction of the milling portion of the premises, and the destruction of most of the machinery, and damage to the little remaining, with other damage done, is expected to reach about £20,000. The premises and contents were insured with the Western Australian Insurance Company, Ltd., of Currie Street, Adelaide, the amount, it is understood, being approximately for £40,000. The members of the United Milling Company are Messrs. Laurence C. Rix, of Royston Park; Ernest W. Rix, of Fussell Place, Alberton; and Norris H. Rix, of Hugh Street, Woodville (managing director). Mr. Norris Rix had an unpleasant surprise when Mr. W. E. C. Baudinet (works manager for the Wallaroo-Mt. Lyell Fertilisers, Ltd.) rang him up at about 1.30 a.m. and told him the mill was on fire. He went to Birkenhead at once, but by that time the fire was practically over, although the debris continued to smoulder all day, and firemen were kept at work with two lines of hose on the fire to prevent it breaking out afresh.

Experiences of Neighbours.

Situated on an allotment adjoining the rear of the mill on the eastern side in Walker Street, are two semi-detached weatherboard houses. Mrs. T. Hunter, a widow, resides in the one next to the mill and the other is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. W. Webb and five of their children. Relating her unenviable experience, Mrs. Hunter said she was lying awake in bed in the front room of her house about 12.45 on Thursday, morning when she saw a red glare reflected outside. The window blind had not been pulled down and she saw that a fire was raging close by. Rushing outside, Mrs. Hunter saw a red glow in the windows on the top floor of the mill. She appeared to be the first resident in the street astir, and realising the seriousness of the situation, immediately went into the house occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Webb and aroused them and their children. Neighbours then began to arrive on the scene, and seeing that a change in the direction the wind was blowing might cause the flames to envelop the cottages they assisted in the removal of all the furniture from the two cottages and placed it in a safe position some distance along the street. No chances were taken, and even linoleum and carpets were hastily taken up. Mrs. Hunter said the crackling and roaring of the flames was awe-inspiring. The heat was intense in the yard, at the rear of her house, and part of the woodwork on the back verandah was scorched. Mrs. A. M. Doodle, who occupies a shop and dwelling on the western side of the mill, in Rann Street, was awakened soon after the fire broke out. As goods trains frequently proceed along Rann Street at night, she at first attributed the rumbling and crackling and the fire to that cause. Her shop and dwelling were not affected by the fire.

ORIGIN OF FIRE UNKNOWN.

The mill was not working night shift. Eight men and a foreman (Mr. Harry Whitehorn, of Fletcher Road, Largs) were working at the mill during the day. The mill started grinding at 11.15 on Wednesday and finished at 5 p.m. Mr. Charles N. King, a sack cleaner, of St. Georges Place, Alberton, then locked up the mill, retaining possession

of the keys. Everything then seemed to be in perfect order. When the fire brigade arrived the fire had such a hold that it was impossible to form any opinion as to the cause of the outbreak or to be sure as to where it originated. It was possible it started on the ground floor near the centre of the eastern side of the mill. Inspector J. E. Noblet, with Constables T. Hentschke (of Birkenhead), J. H. Bowley and W. Sutherland were quickly at the fire to give the brigade assistance in the control of traffic and spectators. Constable Hentschke made enquiries into the outbreak on Thursday, and is furnishing a report to the City Coroner.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 9 July 1928, page 1

Fire at Point Station

A point station of the Adelaide Electric Supply Company, Limited, on the corner of Grenfell street and Gawler place, Adelaide, caught fire this morning. Much damage was done to the station before the blaze was extinguished by a fire extinguisher, brought hurriedly from the premises of L. G. Abbott and Co., Limited. It is supposed that defective wiring caused the fire.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 11 July 1928, page 1

ADELAIDE HOSPITAL FIRE

Pantry in Faith Ward Scorched

A pot of melting beeswax and turpentine caught fire in the pantry of Faith Ward, Adelaide Hospital, this afternoon, and spreading, scorched the interior. There were 20 patients in the ward at the time. The pantry door was quickly closed, and except for the smoke the sick would have known nothing of the incident. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was called, but hospital attendants had extinguished the blaze before it arrived. The ward is built of brick.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill, NSW : 1888 - 1954), Wednesday 11 July 1928, page 4

FIRE AT ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

Adelaide. Wednesday.

A pot of melting beeswax and turpentine caught fire in the pantry of Faith Ward, Adelaide Hospital, this afternoon. The door of the pantry was quickly closed and Hospital attendants quelled the blaze before the brigade arrived. Thick Smoke entered the ward, but otherwise the 20 patients therein suffered no inconvenience or alarm by the fire.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 11 July 1928, page 1

Blaze at Factory

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call about 2 o'clock this afternoon to the factory of By-Products Manufacturing Company, 383 King William street, Adelaide. A small outbreak, which had occurred at the rear of the premises, was quickly subdued. It is believed that the fire was caused by some oil catching alight. The damage was slight.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 3 August 1928, page 11

CITY FIRE.

Painter's Shop Guttled.

A shop was gutted by fire in the west end of the City on Thursday night. About 8.30 o'clock the City Fire Brigade received a call from a Gouger street alarm, to Moonta street, and three reels were despatched. On their arrival, a small shop occupied by the Sign Art Company was found to be well alight. The firemen had the blaze under control within a few minutes; but, in the meantime, most of the contents had been destroyed. These included large supplies of paint which caused the fire to spread with great rapidity. The shop contained supplies of paper and various artist's materials. Most of the woodwork was destroyed, but the full extent of the damage is not yet known. The building is owned by Mr. E. A. H. Madge, of Davenport terrace, Wayville. Great promptitude was shown by the brigade in dealing with the outbreak.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 4 August 1928, page 11

FOR THE MOTORIST.

MOTORISTS AND THE FIRE BRIGADE.

An official of the Automobile Association recently interviewed the chief officer of the Adelaide Fire Brigade (Mr. J. E. Dickie) with a view to ascertaining whether the association could assist the brigade in any way by drawing the attention of drivers of vehicles to the procedure to be adopted on hearing the fire alarm. Mr. Dickie stated that one of the chief difficulties that the brigade had to contend with was the inconsiderate habit of some motorists who persisted in following the brigade to a fire. A number of drivers apparently are in the habit of running alongside the brigade's vehicles and accompanying them to the seat of the fire. Often these drivers speed up and travel ahead of the brigade, thereby impeding its movements and sometimes causing delay in reaching the fire. It is clearly laid down in the by-laws of the city that the driver of any vehicle shall, on hearing the fire bell, draw to the side of the road and, if necessary, stop, and permit the free passage of any vehicle belonging to the Fire Brigade. The Automobile Association appeals to all motorists to observe closely this regulation and to refrain from accompanying the brigade vehicles. Another matter which causes a good deal of inconvenience to the firemen is the parking of motor cars near fire hydrants. This is a most serious offence, since it often means delay in the coupling up of hose pipes. A city by-law forbids any motorist to park or rank his vehicle within 10 ft. of a fire hydrant, and when the seriousness of this offence is brought to the notice of drivers they will no doubt make a point of keeping clear of fire hydrants, and so allow the brigade free and immediate access for the coupling of the hoses.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 6 August 1928, page 15

FIRE AT THE PALAIS ROYAL.

A fire broke out at the switchboard in the Palais Royal, North-terrace, at 6.48 a.m. on Sunday, and damage to electrical fittings to the extent of about £200 was caused. The outbreak occurred through the fusing of wires. No damage was done to the building. The brigade was quickly in attendance, and extinguished the flames with chemicals. The building, of which Mr. J. L. Herbert, of Ruthven Mansions, is the proprietor, was insured for £15,000. Officials of the Electric Light Company attended and cut off the power supply.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 25 August 1928, page 15

SMALL FIRE IN GAY'S ARCADE.

The Fire Brigade received a call to a shop in Gay's Arcade, Rundle-street, about 6 o'clock on Friday night. They found a fire smouldering in premises occupied by Messrs. Reason & Company, manufacturers' agents. The fire was soon extinguished, only slight damage being done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 30 August 1928, page 13

FIRE IN HINDLEY STREET.

About 12.55 on Thursday morning the Fire Brigade was called to the shop of the Austral Elevator Company in Hindley street, near to Morphett street. Some material in the north-western corner of the shop had ignited, and the flames were beginning to spread rapidly. The brigade responded so promptly, however, that the use of a hose was not necessary, and a chemical cylinder was sufficient to extinguish the fire.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 31 August 1928, page 10

INCENDIARISM SUSPECTED.

Petrol Found Near Fire.

Incendiarism is suspected in connection with the fire which occurred at the premises of the Austral Elevator Company, in Hindley street, Adelaide, in the early hours of Thursday morning, as two tins of petrol, one of which was leaking, were found near the fire, and evidence was discovered of a visit by thieves.

At about 12.45 o'clock in the morning, P.C. Hales saw smoke issuing from the basement of the building. The Fire Brigade quickly subdued the fire, but it was found that an electric iron had been left switched on and that the heat had caused a heap of sacks and cotton waste to smoulder. Nearby were the tins of petrol, and in one of these was a small hole, through which the petrol was allowed to flow on to the bags. Nobody appears to know how the iron came to be connected to the power main. A safe in another part of the building, which had been left unlocked, was found open, and papers from it were strewn about the floor, while drawers had been ransacked. The police, however, were unable to find any evidence of a forcible entry.

Narracoorte Herald (SA : 1875 - 1954), Friday 31 August 1928, page 2

LATEST TELEGRAMS

(From our own Correspondent)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide, Thursday morning.

A CITY FIRE CHECKED.

While patrolling Hindley-street before 1 o'clock this morning Sergeant Daly noticed flames and smoke coming from the premises of the Austral Elevator Co. He summoned the Fire Brigade, who extinguished the blaze. Fittings and some clocks were damaged slightly.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 3 September 1928, page 11

NEWS OF THE DAY

FALSE ALARM.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a telephone call from the Gouger street alarm about 5 p.m. on Saturday. Upon turning out, the brigade found itself the victim of a stupid hoax. There was no sign of any fire in the vicinity, but the glass in the alarm signal had been broken by some person.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 11 September 1928, page 14

FIRE BRIGADE EMPLOYEES.

A well-attended meeting of the Fire Brigade employes was held at the head station on Sunday morning. The general secretary of the A.G.W.A. (Mr. F. K. Nias) introduced Messrs. K. Bardolph and T. P. Howard (president and secretary of the Trades and Labor Council), and Mr. A. W. Cotter (vice-president of the A.G.W.A. Mr. Bardolph was asked to take the chair, and submitted a report on negotiations with the board. Mr. Howard supplemented the report. The following resolution was carried unanimously: — "That this meeting expresses its confidence in the Disputes Committee of the Trades and Labor Council, in its efforts to effect a settlement of the present dispute with the Fire Brigades Board, and, further, we give our undivided support to the Disputes Committee in any line of action it may take to effect a settlement. The Disputes Committee will meet to deal with the matter this afternoon.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 15 September 1928, page 1

Small City Fire

Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 3.50 o'clock this afternoon to a fire in an unoccupied house in Waymouth street. The fire was quickly extinguished. Slight damage was done to a staircase and a front room.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 15 September 1928, page 15

EARLY MORNING FIRE.

Two-Storied House Razed.

Early this morning a house on the Anzac Highway, at Morphettville, was totally destroyed by fire.

At midnight, the City Fire Station received the call, and sent two appliances. The Glenelg Fire Brigade also answered the summons. The house, which was directly opposite the Morphettville Racecourse, was of two stories, and constructed of wood and iron. It was one of the several houses built in the locality many years ago. No one was living on the premises, which were only partly furnished. The blaze had got a firm hold by the time the brigades arrived, and despite strenuous efforts by the firemen the building was totally destroyed. The owners are at present unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 17 September 1928, page 19

FIRE NEAR LIGHT-SQUARE.

The Fire Brigade was summoned to an unoccupied house, situated in Waymouth-street, near Light-square, about 3.45 on Saturday afternoon. It was found that a staircase was on fire, and the blaze was extinguished, little damage being done. The cause of the fire and the

owner of the house are unknown. It was formerly occupied by Mrs. E. Burns, a lodginghouse-keeper.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 17 September 1928, page 19

AN EMPTY HOUSE BURNED.

An unoccupied house in Marston-avenue, Keswick, owned by Mr. G. E. Dowling, an electrician, of Goodwood-road, Cottonville, was destroyed by fire early on Sunday morning. The house had been vacated only that day, and in the afternoon Mrs. Dowling went there and cleaned it up. When she left, about 5 p.m., everything was in order. The alarm was given about 1 a.m. on Sunday that it was on fire. The central fire brigade was called, but the place was almost completely gutted.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 22 September 1928, page 10

FACTORY ON FIRE

Excellent work by appliances from Adelaide and Unley Fire Stations checked what might have been a serious fire on the premises of Messrs. Walker and Martin, furniture makers, Anzac Highway, Ashford, this afternoon.

The premises consisted of two large wood and iron sheds, one of which was used as the factory and storeroom, and a small shed in which the plant was placed. The fire was first noticed at 1 o'clock, and by the time the brigades arrived it was burning fiercely. It started in the small shed, which was situated between the other two. Efforts were largely confined to keeping the flames from reaching the two large sheds. Although not entirely successful, the brigades kept the fire under control, and the greater portion of the stock in the large sheds was saved. The small building was gutted. Owing to the high wind that was blowing, the firemen had an arduous task in checking the fire, and for a time it seem that the whole of the buildings would go. Mr. A. F. Martin, a member of the firm lives in the house adjoining the factory. He was not at home when the outbreak occurred. Seen later in the afternoon, he refused to comment on the outbreak, or to give an estimate of the damage.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 24 September 1928, page 10

A SMALL FIRE.

Damage to the extent of about £5 was caused by a fire which broke out in a shed at the rear of the Currie-street public school early on Saturday afternoon. It is believed it was caused by sparks blown from a rubbish incinerator near-by. The Fire Brigade soon had the outbreak under control. The shed was used for storing wood, and some of that and the timbers of the shed were charred.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 25 September 1928, page 8

FIRE BRIGADE DEMONSTRATION.

On Friday evening last the superintendent and officers of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade entertained about 40 members of Messrs. Laubman and Pank's stall. The brigade gave a display of its efficiency, under the supervision of Station Officer Griffen. Mr. Pank gave a talk on his world tour, illustrated by films.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 27 September 1928, page 9

FIRE AT BICKFORD'S.

Fortunate Save.

Employes' Fine Efforts.

Smart work by firemen and employes in the factory of A. M. Bickford & Sons, Limited, checked an outbreak of fire in the building on Wednesday afternoon, which threatened at one time to assume serious proportions.

The premises, which are at the corner of Currie and Leigh streets, are closed during the lunch hour between 1 o'clock and 2, and it was when the employes were returning to their afternoon's work that the blaze was discovered. Several young women entering an office at the rear of the building, found that it was filled with smoke. One of them immediately gave the alarm, while others, with much presence of mind, removed the money and typewriters in the room to a safer part of the building. Two men assistants attacked the fire with chemical extinguishers, and effectively checked its spreading. Two reels from the city fire station arrived promptly. At that time the staircase on the ground floor was burning fiercely, and dense smoke and fumes which filled the building greatly hampered the firemen. A hose was run from Leigh street through the windows on the first floor. Hundreds of empty packing cases were stored in one of the back rooms, and these had already caught fire when the brigade arrived. A hose was played on them, and the firemen then threw the cases into the loading area outside. Within 10 minutes of their arrival they had the outbreak under control. In the meantime, employes had been clearing the contents of the endangered portions of the premises, and large jars of distilled water, carbonic acid cylinders, and other goods were taken to the rear of the building. It is considered that but for their prompt work, a great deal of valuable material and office instruments would have been destroyed. As it was, the damage was light, and was confined mostly to the loss of wooden partitions and cases. The cause of the outbreak is believed to have been the fusing of an electric wire. One employe was burnt with acid from a chemical extinguisher, and a lad who showed great energy in assisting to move valuables, was overcome by the fumes.

Business Resumed.

An officer of the company stated on Wednesday night that, after much work of reorganizing in the afternoon, the company was now able to resume its usual business activities. Much credit was due to the Telephone Department for their prompt manner in restoring the telephone service. This had necessitated the relaying of a length of cable, the casing of which had been burnt right through.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 4 October 1928, page 1

GAS EXPLOSION

Damage at Myer's

CARPENTER INJURED.

Shortly after 1 o'clock this afternoon excitement was caused at the premises of Myer Emporium, Limited (formerly James Marshall & Co., Limited), Rundle street, Adelaide, following an explosion which affected employes and workmen on the second and third floors. Coming without any warning, the whole of the staff and workmen employed in making alterations to the premises under instructions from Myer Emporium Limited, of

Melbourne, which recently purchased the controlling interest in the company, were thrown into confusion. In the dressmaking workroom machines and materials were upset by the force of the explosion. Fortunately a few minutes before the occurrence most of the employes of that department, which is situated in the east wing of the third floor, had left the room for lunch. When the explosion occurred several women employes fainted, but apart from shock none of them sustained injury. A workman named Broadbridge, of Keswick, who was employed as a carpenter, was rendered insensible and was attended to by a doctor. He was removed on a stretcher to Adelaide Hospital. He is suffering from concussion. Employes stated that since 9 o'clock this morning an odor had been noticeable, and that at 10.30 the gas had been shut off at the main. The cause of the explosion had not been discovered a 2 o'clock, but fire brigade officers stated that they considered that it had been due to an accumulation of gas between the ceiling of the second floor and the flooring of the third floor. A spark from a nail being hit by a hammer might have caused the gas to explode. The greater portion of the ceiling of the second floor for the whole depth of the building and for a width of several yards was forced downward. Some of it fell on fittings and offices beneath. The ceiling was composed of galvanised iron and fibrous plaster. Several small fires were caused in the ceiling, but they were quickly extinguished by members of the staff and fire men with chemical extinguishers. When order was restored workmen began to sweep the floors and clear away the fallen material.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 6 October 1928, page 11

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

From The Register, Saturday, October 5, 1878.

Anxiety was felt by merchants regarding the crops, which had suffered through a long spell of dry weather. Rains had just fallen, and news of the effect was being awaited. Mr. S. Higgs took command of the Fire Brigade so that Supt. A. J. Baker might take a year's leave. As a result of a poll at Moonta the Government was authorized to close the public houses there on Sundays.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 8 October 1928, page 12

PIRIE STREET FIRE

Hotel Property Damaged

Damage estimated at £150 was done to the stock and plant in the laundry of the Selborne Hotel, Pirie street, by a fire which occurred last night. Prompt action on the part of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade saved the hotel from further damage. Mr. A. Grant, licensee of the hotel, stated today that he had just retired to bed when one of the maids called him, saying that there was a fire in the kitchen. He found that the fire had burned through a partition which separated the laundry from a lumber room in Selborne Chambers. The partition was of weatherboard. Upon going to the front of the hotel he noticed that the brigade was busy checking the fire in Selborne Chambers. A hose was brought to bear from the hotel side, and stopped the fire from spreading in that direction. The blaze is believed to have started in a lumber room in Selborne Chambers. Much plaster in the northern end of a passage in the chambers broke away as a result of the heat and water. Several doorways were charred.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 8 October 1928, page 8

CITY BLAZE.

Escapes by a Rope.

The Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to a fire at the rear of the Selborne Hotel at about 10.15 o'clock on Sunday evening. Members of Toc H. were holding a service in their clubrooms on the third floor of Selborne Chambers, which is adjacent, and seeing smoke rolling up the stairway, they made a hurried exit from the room. Several members thought it dangerous to proceed by the stairway, and fastening a rope to the leg of a table, attempted to slide down it. One of their members, Mr. Walter Cave (47), of Wildsen-street, Walkerville, in doing so lost his hold on the rope, and fell heavily on the pavement in McHenry street, suffering injuries to the head and an ankle. Several other members of Toc H., who slid down the rope were treated at the Adelaide Hospital for minor injuries to hands and limbs. The blaze, it is thought, started in a rubbish bin in the passageway of Selborne Chambers, and spread to the laundry, and light court attached to the kitchen of the Selborne Hotel, and this being filled with coal, firewood, clothes, books, papers, and other odds and ends, the flames quickly got a strong hold. They burned through a double doorway leading from the passage of Selborne Chambers, and although the doors are badly charred, the flames did not reach the neighbouring offices of Mr. O. L. Gellert and Mr. P. Langsford, but water ran all over the floors.

Deputy Chief Officer Cooper was quickly on the scene with two of the large Dennis pumps and combination ladders, and all the motor equipment from the Adelaide station. The Norwood, North Adelaide, and Unley Brigades and their appliances were also turned out, but by the time they arrived, the Adelaide firemen had the blaze under control, and they were returned to their stations. Chief Officer Dickie arrived shortly afterwards to direct operations. The firemen first concentrated streams of water into the back passageway of Selborne Chambers, and from there fought their way into the back portion of the Selborne Hotel. Another hose was taken from Pirie street through the Selborne Hotel. Several of the servants and women, living in the hotels had gone to bed, but they quickly sought a safety zone, clad only in light attire. Among those present at the Toc H. service was the Rev. K. F. J. Bickersteth (head master of St. Peters College), and he and other members who made their way out by their stairway were horrified on arriving in McHenry street to find one of their number, Mr. Cave, lying on the footpath in a pool of blood. Hatless, they hurried him in a motor car to the Adelaide Hospital, where he was admitted. Mr. A. Grant, licensee of the hotel, estimates his loss at between £300 and £400.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 20 October 1928, page 4

TWO SMALL FIRES

Motor Car Damaged

Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 6.55 o'clock this evening to premises occupied by George Ekins, gunsmith, of Currie street, where the fire had been caused through packing cases and rubbish becoming ignited. Little damage was done.

North Adelaide Fire Station answered a call at 6.10 o'clock from Mr. E. P. Fay, of Barnard street, whose motor car had caught alight in Kingston terrace, North Adelaide. The petrol tank and front seat of the car were burned.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 25 October 1928, page 9

CITY FIRE

Furniture Mart Gutted.

Damage to the extent of £700 was caused by a fire on Wednesday evening, when the furniture auction mart of Mr. Frederick Matthewman, in Advertiser lane, at the rear of the Criterion Hotel, was gutted and much of its contents destroyed. A man who saw smoke issuing from the building, a one-storey structure, ran to the fire alarm at the General Post Office, King William street, and from there summoned the brigade at 6.40 o'clock. After forcing their way through the front door with hatchets, the firemen soon had the blaze under control; but, as the building and furniture in it were very inflammable, most of the contents were destroyed and damaged by fire and water. A small crowd of people soon gathered at the sight of four fire machines at the scene, and the smoke and flames issuing from the building. It is understood that the property was insured with the South British Insurance Company. The cause of the fire is unknown. Mr. Matthewman said he left the premises at about 6 o'clock when everything was all right.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 25 October 1928, page 17

A CITY BLAZE.

FIRE IN AN AUCTION MART.

FURNITURE DESTROYED.

Damage estimated at several hundreds of pounds was done on Wednesday evening, when a furniture store at the rear of "The Advertiser" building, Waymouth-street, caught fire.

The back part of the auction salerooms and furniture store of Mr. F. Matthewman, auctioneer, valuator, and general agent, of King William-street, was seriously damaged by fire on Wednesday. The Fire Brigade received a call at 6.33 p.m., given by a newsboy, and when the men arrived they found the fire burning fiercely at the southern end of the building, which covers a considerable area. It was fully stocked with furniture belonging to Mr. Matthewman, who had only the previous day stored there three large loads of furniture from Melbourne which for three weeks previously he had been unable to get, owing to lack of space. The building is surrounded on three sides by lanes and on the fourth side abuts "The Advertiser" paper store. Across the lane, at the southern end, is the new Post-office building, on the east are the Criterion Hotel and Eastern Telegraph buildings and shops and stores fronting King William-street. Access to the building is gained from Waymouth-street. The fact that lanes so surround the building facilitated the work of the firemen, and though the furniture was blazing fiercely on their arrival they quickly gained control of the situation. The smoke could be seen from all over the city and the near suburbs. Mr. Matthewman said he could not ascertain exactly what amount of damage had been done, but it would probably amount to several hundreds of pounds, most of which was covered by insurance. The total value of the goods in the store he estimated at between £1,500 and £2,000. The place was all right when he looked over it at 6.25 p.m. The storeman locked up at 5.30. He considered the fireman had made an excellent save.

Report from Fire Brigade.

In response to the alarm two appliances were dispatched from the Fire Brigade, under the control of Station Officer H. T. Sayers. On arrival of the firemen at the scene the fire had

good hold. The furniture in the south-western corner of the premises, including a bedroom suite valued at £50, was destroyed. Two lines of hose were employed— one from Waymouth-street and the other from Post-office-lane. Within six minutes the blaze was under control.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 3 November 1928, page 6

DAMAGE NOT HEAVY

Fire at Crooks & Brooker

Damage done by the fire in the early hours of this morning at the premises of Crooks & Brooker, house furnishers, of Rundle street, Adelaide, proved to be not so heavy as was at first thought. Mr. C. A. Scales (manager) stated this morning that he had not been able to form an idea of the extent of the damage, but little furniture had been affected by the fire, most of the damaged stock being hardware lines. Fittings, showcases, and other articles in the shop had suffered also. Excellent work was done by the Adelaide Fire Brigade, under Station Officer A. M. Griffin. It arrived at 1.5 o'clock this morning, and in a few minutes the flames were under control. Shortly after 1.30 the fire had been extinguished. Members of the brigade pluckily set about their task, despite the danger from falling pieces of glass from panes which broke as a result of the heat. The fire did not travel beyond the spot in which it originated, although it was fierce at the outset, because of celluloid material among the stock. Smoke and water caused some damage to stock, but no part of the premises above the ground floor was affected.



State Library of South Australia - Rundle Street [B 2261], Rundle Street, south side, July 4, 1924. Premises on extreme right are at the corner of Linde's Lane, 12 yards east of the Sir John Barleycorn Hotel, after the completion of alterations to Crooks and Brooker's. For photograph taken prior to alterations see B 1860. Crooks and Brookers Limited were ironmongers and hardware and furniture merchants. Next to this building was J. Holland optician. 1924. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 83 Collection.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 8 November 1928, page 15

FIRE AT KESWICK.

At 9.44 a.m. on Wednesday the fire brigade was summoned to an outbreak at the factory of Messrs. T. J. Richards and Son, motor body builders, Leader-street, Keswick. The firemen found that a machine used for teasing fibre had caught alight through a bearing going hot. Several bags of fibre were destroyed. It is considered that the firemen made a splendid save. The extent of the damage is at present unknown.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 12 November 1928, page 5

THEBARTON BLAZE.

Flock Mill on Fire.

Considerable damage was sustained to a flock mill owned by Messrs. Pook and Hughes, in West Thebarton road, West Thebarton, on Sunday evening.

Between 15 and 20 tons of flock, in bales ready for delivery, were stored in a wood-and-iron shed alongside the teasing machinery and an electric motor. The Thebarton Fire Brigade, under Station Officer Hopkins, turned out with a motor hose carriage and pump, and a similar appliance was sent from the head station in Adelaide. The water pressure from an 8-in. main, however, was good, and two lines of hose was run out. There was no need to use the pumps. The firemen quickly had the blaze under control, and three men were left playing the hose on the pile of debris, which appeared as though it might smoulder for some time. It is not known how the fire originated.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 20 November 1928, page 15

FIRE IN THE CITY.

Considerable damage was done to the contents of the premises of Messrs. Shearer & Williams, upholsterers of Bentham-street, Adelaide, by fire last night. The Fire Brigade was called shortly after 9 o'clock, and soon had the outbreak under control. The building, which was constructed of wood and iron, was slightly damaged, and the water which penetrated the floor poured into the motor cycle repair shop of Messrs. Hunt Bros.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 20 November 1928, page 13

CITY FIRE

Upholsterer's Stock Damaged

Much damage was caused by a fire which broke out in an upholstering establishment in Bentham street, city, on Monday night. The building, a small wood-and-iron structure, was occupied by Messrs. Scherer and Williams. The G.P.O. alarm summoned the City Fire Brigade at 9 a.m., and on the arrival of the reels the premises were found to be well alight. Within a few minutes the blaze was under control. The building was little damaged, but fire and water worked havoc with the contents, mostly upholsterer's materials and wooden fittings. No estimate has yet been made of the extent of the damages. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 26 November 1928, page 10

A CITY FIRE.

On Saturday afternoon the fire brigade was summoned to a fire at the flock mills, off Gilles-street, Adelaide, of Mr. J. Inverarity. The firemen found that several bags were alight, but no other damage was done. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 26 November 1928, page 10

GRASS FIRES.

The City Fire Brigade received calls to two small grass fires on Sunday afternoon. One occurred on a vacant allotment in North-terrace, near West-terrace, and the other near the Victoria Park racecourse. Both were quickly extinguished.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 27 November 1928, page 15

FIRE IN HINDLEY-STREET.

Shortly after 6 p.m. yesterday the Brigade was summoned to Hindley-street, where a fire was burning in the tailoring shop of Mr. Rex Paterson. The fire was confined to the shelves, and with the exception of the destruction of a few suit lengths, little damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 1 December 1928, page 15

A MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

Shortly after 8 p.m. on Friday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was summoned to the Memorial Drive, at the rear of the Adelaide Oval, where a motor car belonging to Mr. A. H. Wilkinson was alight. Little damage was done, the blaze being confined to the engine. It is thought that a short circuit was responsible for the fire.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 1 December 1928, page 6

MANY SMALL FIRES

Electric Iron Causes Blaze

Shortly after 3.30 o'clock this afternoon Adelaide Fire Brigade, under Station Officer Griffen, received a call to the Royal British Nursing Home, Dequetteville terrace, Kent Town. An electric iron had been left switched on, and the contents of a room and the ceiling were slightly damaged.

A grass fire in Ackland street, Adelaide, occupied the attention of the brigade for a short time about 3.20 o'clock. Little damage was done.

Unley Fire Brigade received a call about 11.30 o'clock this morning to Grange road, Mitcham, where a motor lorry owned and driven by Mr. L. Brown, of Robsart street Parkside, was on fire. The flames were quickly extinguished. The engine was slightly damaged. A paling fence, a cypress hedge, and some grass were burned at 1.45 o'clock in a paddock adjoining Methodist Ladies' College, Park terrace, Wayville. Unley Fire Brigade attended.

North Adelaide Brigade was called to a grass fire in Lefevre terrace, North Adelaide, at 11.47 o'clock. No damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 3 December 1928, page 25

A CITY FIRE.

GOOD WORK BY BRIGADE.

As the result of good work by the Fire Brigade, a serious fire in Pirie-street, Adelaide, was prevented last night. Shortly before 10 o'clock Mrs. R. Jones, wife of the caretaker of Epworth Buildings, smelt something smouldering. She notified her husband, and on investigating he found that the office of the Phono Player Company, on the ground floor of the building, was on fire. Mr. Jones notified the Fire Brigade, and in the meantime he tried to

put the fire out with a hose and buckets of water. On the arrival of the firemen the office was well alight. Pianos were being burned, and the office equipment had been destroyed. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. The proprietors of the office, Messrs. C. J. Millington and L. W. Brew, could not estimate the damage last night. A number of new pianos had been destroyed. Had not the firemen made a quick response it is feared that a serious fire would have resulted. No other part of the building was damaged.



State Library of South Australia - Pirie Street [B 3945], Pirie Street, south side. Epworth Building erected in 1926. Pirie Street frontage is 24 yards. Far side of building is 47 yards west of Gawler Place. February 1927. Part of Acre 204 Collection.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 3 December 1928, page 14

FIRES ON SUNDAY.

About 11.36 am. on Sunday the Fire Brigade received a call from the alarm at Messrs. Reid Bros, and proceeding to a lane off Ackland-street, City, they found a motor bus on fire. The bus, which was owned by Mr. A. L. Good, was almost completely destroyed. The owner stated that the outbreak resulted from a short circuit in the electrical wiring. The Unley Fire Brigade was summoned to two small grass fires on Sunday morning. One was in Westbourne Park, and the other in Opey-avenue, Hyde Park. No damage was done in either instance. On Saturday city and suburban fire brigades were called to eight grass fires, but no damage was reported.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 7 December 1928, page 1

Oil on Fire

At 9.2 this morning the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to the premises of Campbell & Worthington, Limited, motor engineers, Grenfell street, where oil resting upon water had become ignited. The flames were put out with a fire extinguisher.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 10 December 1928, page 15

A CITY BLAZE.

WOMEN IN PERIL.

RESCUED BY FIREMEN.

A mother and her daughter were rescued by firemen at a city fire yesterday. They were cut off from their only escape by flames. They were uninjured.

Mrs. F. E. Jarvis was awakened from her sleep at her two-storeyed home in Wakefield-street, Adelaide, shortly after 6.15 a.m. on Sunday by flames and smoke issuing from the rear of the premises. She aroused her daughter, who was asleep on the balcony. Mr. Jarvis, who was downstairs, went to a telephone and called the brigade. Two appliances, under Station-Officer Griffin, were quickly on the scene. The men found the rear portion of the home of Mr. Jarvis well alight, and that portion of the adjoining house, occupied by Misses Kempster and Kernick, had been damaged. It was evident that the fire had had a good hold before it was discovered.

Many people gathered in front of the houses. Before the fire was got under control they were horrified to see Mrs. and Miss Jarvis imprisoned on the balcony of their home by flames and smoke. Their only exit from the verandah, which was down the staircase, was cut off by the fire. Station-Officers Griffin and Sayers erected a ladder to the balcony and removed the two women, who were suffering from shock, to safety. Had it not been for the prompt action of the officers Mrs. and Miss Jarvis might have perished in the flames. While assisting the firemen Mr. Jarvis sustained a severe burn on his right hand, which necessitated treatment. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. It is thought that the fire started in the premises of Mr. Jarvis, who is a photographer. The flames quickly travelled on the ground floor, and eventually it broke through the ceiling into the top floor. The staircase was much damaged. The contents of three rooms were charred, and in one of the rooms upstairs a quantity of clothing was destroyed. Two rooms in the house of Misses Kernick and Kempster were damaged by fire and water. The ceiling of the kitchen was ruined. The house occupied by Mr. Jarvis and family is occupied by Mr. C. Gulley, and that of Misses. Kempster and Kernick is owned by Mr. Keane. It was stated that both houses are covered by insurance.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 10 December 1928, page 9

CITY FIRE.

WOMEN IN JEOPARDY.

Wakefield Street Outbreak.

Two women trapped on a balcony in a city house were rescued from burning by firemen in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a telephone message and a ring on the fire alarm simultaneously at 6.30 on Sunday morning that two two-storey houses, Nos. 248. and 250 Wakefield street, city, were in flames. They are dwelling houses, occupied by Mr. F. E. Jarvis, photographer, and another by Miss Kempster, a dressmaker, and Miss Kernick. It is not known how the blaze originated, but it had a good hold on Mr. Jarvis's house before some of the occupants were out of bed, and had spread to Miss Kempster's dwelling before the brigade had arrived. Two motor fire appliances, in charge of Station Officers Griffin and Sayers, were smartly on the scene.

Woman on Balcony.

Mrs. Jarvis and her daughter were sleeping on the front balcony, were aroused by Mr. Jarvis, but when they rushed toward the back of the house, to use the stairway, it was found to be in flames, and the fire had a good hold on the two upstairs rooms. The firemen ran up a ladder to the front balcony, and rescued the women, who were not injured. Mr. Jarvis received slight burns to one hand. One downstairs and two upstairs rooms in Mr. Jarvis's house and their contents, including furniture and a quantity of clothing, were burned, and an upstairs room in Miss Kempster's dwelling was also reached by the flames, which rose above the level of the roofs. These two houses are in the centre of a row of eight or nine similar dwellings all attached, and the residents of some of the neighbouring houses prepared to remove furniture and other articles of value, but it was soon seen to be unnecessary. Mr. Jarvis's house is owned by Mr. C. Gully, and that of Miss Kempster by Mr. Keane. Both buildings, it is understood, are insured. A report has been prepared for the City Coroner (Dr. W. Ramsay Smith).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 10 December 1928, page 21

GRASS FIRES.

The City, Norwood, Unley, Thebarton, and North Adelaide Fire Brigades attended grass fires on Sunday afternoon. No damage was done at any of the outbreaks. A large grass fire at Glen Osmond late last night made a fine reflection over the city. Residents attempted to put the fire out, but it continued for over an hour. A large quantity of grass was destroyed, but no other damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 11 December 1928, page 23

FIRE BRIGADE EMPLOYEES.

A largely attended meeting of the Fire Brigade employes was held at the head station on Sunday morning. The president of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. T. J. D. Barker) occupied the chair. Mr. A. J. L. Sandison intimated that he was unable to carry out his duties on the disputes committee owing to having been transferred to an out-station. He was thanked for his services and Mr. A. McCallum was elected to the position. The president of the Trades and Labor Council (Mr. K. Bardolph) submitted a report regarding the council's negotiations in a misunderstanding which had occurred, and said he felt sure the matter would be amicably settled within the next few days. In view of the report, the meeting was adjourned until next Sunday morning, members expressing the hope that the way out as suggested by the Trades and Labor Council would be acceptable to all parties.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 17 December 1928, page 17

CASUALTIES.

BLAZE AT THEATRE.

The Fire Brigade had a call to the Regent Theatre about noon in Sunday. Workmen were arranging spotlights near the stage, and one of the lights fused and set fire to a "blacking out" curtain, which was burned. There was no other damage.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 17 December 1928, page 5

FIRES AT UNLEY

Two Sheds Damaged

Almost simultaneously two sheds caught alight at Unley about 11 o'clock this morning. Unley Fire Brigade received a call by telephone to the premises of Mr. A. L. Lund, grocer, of Unley road, North Unley. A shed was slightly damaged before the flames were extinguished. One minute later a call was received from the residence of Mr. F. L. Frost, Wattle street, Fullarton, and an appliance from Central Fire Station attended. The outbreak was subdued. A wooden shed and contents were destroyed, and a fence slightly damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 18 December 1928, page 15

A GRASS FIRE.

The Fire Brigade was called at 3.25 p.m. yesterday to a grass fire in Gilbert-street, City. No damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 24 December 1928, page 23

PARKLANDS FIRE.

About 5.45 p.m. on Sunday the City Fire Brigade received a call to the West Parklands, at the end of Waymouth-street, where the grass had caught fire in the vicinity of the Observatory. The fire was extinguished in about 15 minutes.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 26 December 1928, page 13

FIRE ALARM BROKEN.

Rundle-street, Adelaide, was closed to vehicular traffic during the busy period on Christmas Eve. Thousands of people thronged the thoroughfare. Shortly after 9.45 o'clock pedestrians were startled when two fire appliances dashed out of Gawler-place and along Rundle-street to an alarm at the corner of Charles-street. People scattered to the footpaths and made the way clear. The firemen found that the glass of the alarm had been broken and a malicious call given.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 26 December 1928, page 10

FIRE BRIGADE EMPLOYEES.

A meeting of the fire brigade section of the Australian Government Workers' Association was held at the head station, Wakefield street, on Sunday morning. The president. (Mr. D. J. Barker) was in the chair, and Messrs. K. Bardolph (president of the Trades and Labour

Council), and T. P. Howard (secretary) submitted reports respecting the recommendation of the disputes committee. A secret ballot was taken, and it was decided to give effect to the recommendation of the disputes committee. Senator J. J. Daly also supported the resolution.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 31 December 1928, page 10

FIRE IN A WAREHOUSE.

Damage Estimated at £2,000.

A fire broke out in the early hours of Sunday morning in the warehouse of Messrs. C. J. Chandler & Co., Grenfell Buildings, off Gawler place, Adelaide, and damage estimated, at £2,000 was occasioned to the firm's stock. The call, which was made at 2.18 a.m., was responded to by the whole of the equipment from the fire brigade headquarters. Operations were carried out under Superintendent Dickie. The south-western, corner of the building, in the lane at the side of the Commercial Hotel, was well alight, but the prompt action of the firefighters confined the flames to that locality. It was an effective save in that the flames had secured a good hold on a wooden partition, near which was stored a large quantity of softgoods on the ground floor and in the basement. Although some goods were damaged by water and some scorched, the bulk of the stock was not affected. Later in the morning, at about 10 o'clock, the smouldering portions burst temporarily into flame, but the outbreak was quickly quelled by the fireman still on duty.



State Library of South Australia - Grenfell Street, Adelaide [B 1818], Grenfell Street, Adelaide, south side, in June 1920, featuring Grenfell Buildings. Tenants include Dunsmore & Co., Tailors, C.J. Chandler, and Castle Salt Co-operative Company. The extreme right of the view is 36 yards west of Gawler Place. Approximately 1920. Photographer, Francis Gabriel, Part of Acre 143 Collection.