

## Adelaide Fire Brigade 1930

South Australia - The Depression Years - 1930 to 1936

### **Sands and McDougall Directory of South Australia for 1930**

Head Station - Wakefield at—S side. 97 Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station—Dickie, J. E, chief officer

North Adelaide – 82 Tynte St east—N side. Oldham, C. T, in charge

Port Adelaide - Cannon st—S side. Butler, C. officer in charge. Cnr of Church St.

Birkenhead - Elder rd—E side. Vallentine W., fire float captain.

Semaphore - Hall st—S side. Woods, H. C. station officer. Cnr of Jagoe st

Unley - Edmund av—N side. 82 Luck, G, stn officer, 80 Unley Fire Brigade Station, 78 Purvis, W, fireman, 76 Fry, T. A, fireman.

Glenelg – 14 Augusta st—S side. Horrocks, W., fire station officer. Cnr of Gordon St. Gordon st—E side. Fire Brigade Station—Horrocks, W, stn officer. Gordon st—W side, 33 Pahle, O, frmn fire brigade.

Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade - Hindmarsh pl—N side. STN No. 1. Hindmarsh Volunteer Ambulance Station.

Norwood - Parade—N side. 229 Fire Brigade Station—Tyson, W., offcr in charge.

Kilkenny rd—E side. Kilkenny Vol Fire Stn

Enfield Fire Brigade Station

Murray Bridge Fire Brigade Board—Murray Bridge Station, F. Robertson, Officer in Charge.

Port Pirie Fire Brigade Station, Gertrude street—Officer in charge, E. W. Cook



*Sands and McDougall Directory of South Australia 1930 page 2136*

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 3 January 1930, page 17**

FIRES LAST YEAR

Last year there were 568 calls made on fire brigades, according to statistics given by the chief officer of the Adelaide Fire Brigade (Mr. J. E. Dickie).

In 1928 there were 589 calls. In that year there were 31 serious fires, however, whereas last year the most serious were the blaze at the petrol store of Messrs. H. C. Sleigh, at Port-road, Albert Park; the fire which burnt out the auction mart, Hindley-street, city, on April 2, and caused damage to the premises of Collett's, Limited, and other shops adjoining; and the fire on June 25, at Main-road, Solomontown, when the furniture warehouse of the Port Pirie Furnishing Company was practically destroyed, and damage done to the adjoining furniture factory of Messrs. W. J. Pimlott & Son and other premises. A feature of the records of 1929 is that they include four fires on vessels carrying coal. On September 17 the Toorhead's cargo of coal was alight at Port Pirie; on September 25 the Tremeadow was dealt with at Ocean Steamers' wharf, Port Adelaide; and the King Howell caused similar trouble at Port Pirie two days later. On October 29 firemen had to put out a fire on the Anglo-Australian at Osborne wharf. Referring to the number of false alarms received, Mr. Dickie said a large percentage of such alarms were experienced by fire brigades all over the world. In 1928 about 15 per cent. of calls received in South Australia were malicious false alarms. To show that such a percentage was not above the average experienced in other parts of the world, Mr. Dickie took down at random the report for Glasgow for 1926. In that year, at Glasgow, out of 1,830 calls, 592 were classed as false alarms.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 8 January 1930, page 15**

HEAT WAVE

MAXIMUM 106

No Change Expected

Adelaide experienced the hottest day for the summer yesterday, when the thermometer registered 106 degrees at 3 p.m. No immediate change is expected. The thermometer has been rising steadily since Saturday, when the maximum temperature was 77.3. On Sunday 94.3 was reached, followed by 99.6 on Monday. Despite the temperature, comparatively little discomfort was suffered in the city yesterday, owing to the clear heat and absence of mugginess. The minimum was 73.7 at 6 a.m. The hot weather attracted large numbers to the beaches, and owing to a large extent to the school holidays, the numbers on the sand almost equalled those during a week-end or on a holiday. The City Baths were also well patronised, and crowds of boys bathed in the Torrens. The demand for ice responded in direct ratio to the increasing temperature. About 90 tons were sold on Monday, and more than 100 tons were delivered to shops and residences yesterday.

The Fire Brigade received a number of calls, due to the heat melting the fuses of safety sprinklers. It was stated at the Adelaide Hospital that patients were not affected unduly by the heat, and there had been no admittances owing to heat seizures.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 11 January 1930, page 21**

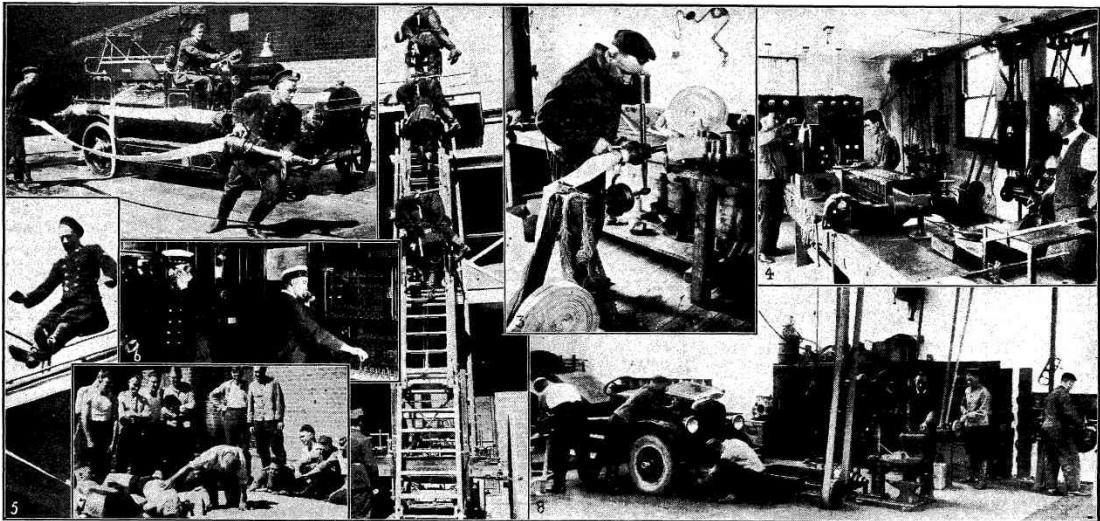
FIRE SPRINKLERS

Reference was made in a report on Wednesday that the Fire Brigade had received several calls owing to the heat melting the fuses of safety sprinklers. The Adelaide manager of Wormald, Limited (Mr. E. P. Newman) stated yesterday that during the recent heat wave not one of the sprinklers contained in the 90 installations supervised in the city by his company, was set in motion through atmospherical conditions. Most of the special sprinklers constructed in buildings to prevent fire would only act through coming in contact with flames.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 18 January 1930, page 20**

Adelaide's Fire-Fighting Force

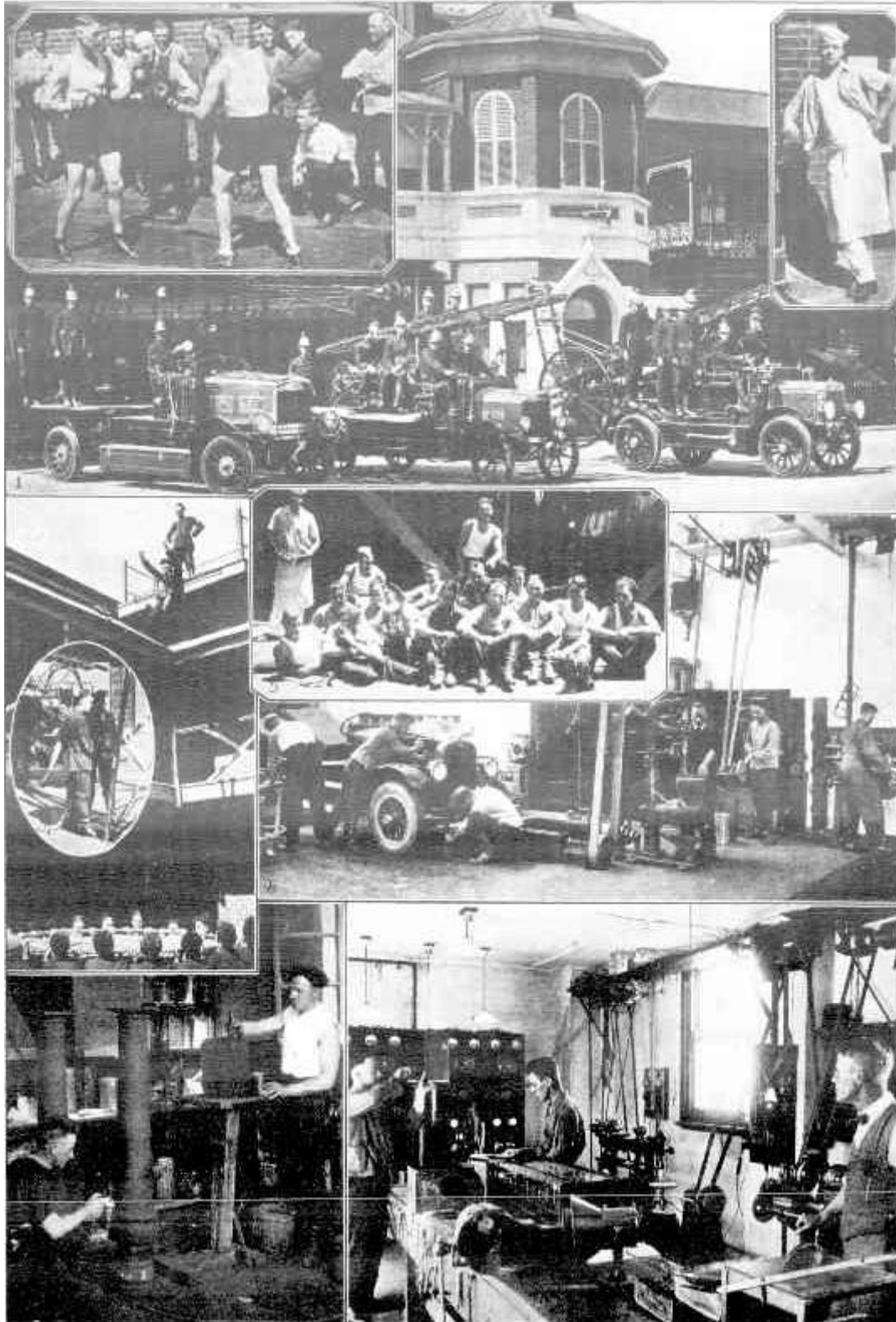
### METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE AT WORK



When there are no big fires, the members of the brigade are kept busy, drills and workshop requirements occupying their attention. It is not generally known that most of the work required for the brigade is done in their own shops. The pictures illustrate some of their activities:— 1. Fire drill. The proper method of running out a line of hose. 2. Ladder drill, in which the men practise the knack of carrying people down a ladder. 3. Showing the hose room. A fireman is coupling a new line of hose. 4. Electrically-equipped workshops. Here all the work appertaining to the brigade is performed. 5. Escape drill: A fireman jumping into a sheet. 6. The watch room. Operators watching the boards for fire signals. 7. Hours of recreation: A wrestling bout in progress. S. General view of workshop and garage. Krischock photos.

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 23 January 1930, page 35***

FIRE FIGHTERS.



AN EFFICIENT BRIGADE. Krischock. photos.

The Adelaide Fire Brigade is a well-equipped and efficient organization. Headquarters are situated in Wakefield Street. 1. Three reels outside station. 2. G. Cameron, on left (Brigade champion) spars with friend in leisure moments. 3. The Fire Brigade cook. 4. Jumping drill. 5. Some of the men at 'smoke-oh.' 6. At work in Brigade workshop and garage. 7. Pump drill. 8.

In the paintshop, painting fire alarms. 9. Electrical workshop, where all electrical work appertaining to Brigade throughout S.A. is done.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 24 January 1930, page 21**

**BEDROOM DESTROYED BY FIRE**

Shortly before 6 o'clock last evening a fire broke out in a wood and iron room occupied by Mr. Ralph Kruss, situated at the rear of a house facing Flinders-street east, City. The room was gutted, and the personal effects of Mr. Kruss were destroyed. The brigade prevented the blaze spreading to other parts of the house. The building was insured, but the property of Mr. Kruss was not covered.

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Friday 24 January 1930, page 3**

**City Fire Causes £200 Damage**

Causing damage estimated at £200, a fire destroyed a wood and iron room at the rear of the house of Mr. W. J. Krus, in Flinders street, city, about 6.50 p.m. yesterday. Mr. Krus said he left his house about 4 p.m. and when he returned he found the Fire Brigade at work there. All the personal effects of his brother, Mr. Ralph Krus, which were in the room were destroyed.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 24 January 1930, page 23**

**FIRE AT UPPER STURT**

**SIR JOSIAH SYMON'S HOME THREATENED**

**STABLES DESTROYED**

A fire broke out in the stables near the home of Sir Josiah Symon at Upper Sturt shortly after 1 p.m. on Tuesday. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Within a few minutes after the discovery of the fire the flames had a good hold. Adjoining the stables, which had a hay loft attached, were the dining quarters of the employes. It was not long before a portion of the stables was enveloped in flames. The roof in parts crashed to the ground. An explosion was heard while the fire was at its height. It is thought that it was caused by the discharging of cartridges which had been left in the stables.

**Homestead Saved**

Sir Josiah and Lady Symon were absent at the time of the outbreak. Mr. Oliver Symon, a son, was present, and, with the assistance of employes and neighbors, the fire was prevented from spreading to the homestead. A good supply of water was obtained. The situation looked dangerous when the fire swept down the hill near the garden and along to the adjoining hillside, which was quickly ablaze. Hard work by the fighters kept the fire within bounds.

**City Firemen Attend**

When they were notified of the fire, Sir Josiah and Lady Symon hurried to the scene. They arranged for several firemen from the city fire brigade to assist. By 4 p.m. the blaze was under control, but in places it smouldered until yesterday. Although approximately 20 acres of the hillside were swept by the fire, little damage was done. A large portion of the stables, a quantity of hay, some tools, and several small hand carts were destroyed.

**Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 25 January 1930, page 5**

**Sheds Destroyed by Fire**

Fire destroyed a large wood-and-iron shed and stables owned by J. S. Walsh at Whitmore square tonight. The brigade received a telephone call at 6.29 o'clock, but on arrival found the structures well alight. They were unable to save them.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 27 January 1930, page 11**

**FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS**

#### FIRE NEAR WHITMORE-SQUARE

Six horses, three belonging to the Salvation Army and three to Mr. J. S. Welsh, were moved to safety on Saturday evening when a fire broke out in a wood and iron shed, used as a stable, in Hocking-place, off Whitmore-square. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade a few minutes after their arrival had control of the fire. Mr. Welsh owned the shed, a portion of which was used by Mr. F. Lague, marine store dealer. The structure was practically destroyed, and a small salvage shed attached to the Salvation Army premises alongside was slightly damaged.

**Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 1 February 1930, page 43**

#### FOUR TRAPPED IN £3,000 CITY FIRE

Women Escape Into Street Down Ladders

#### PRINTERY DAMAGED

FOUR women were trapped in an adjacent building when fire caused nearly £3,000 damage to the premises and plant of Cope Press, Ltd., Tavistock street, last Saturday, just before midnight. They were rescued by a policeman and firemen.

Before the Fire Brigade arrived a ladder was procured, and Constable Hepworth rescued Miss Marjorie Bailey. Then the brigade ran an escape ladder through the window, and Mrs. L. Watkinson and her daughters. Dorothy and Irene, were brought into the street. Their place was not touched by fire, although the firemen had to work hard to stop the flames from attacking these and other nearby premises.

It is thought that the fire had been smouldering for some time before the flames burst through the windows and roof, because it seemed that the whole place flared up instantly. The top floor, which is the compositors' department, was burnt out. The bookbinding department was on the first floor, and contained much stock, including many partly finished orders and others awaiting delivery. The office and one machine on that floor were destroyed.

#### PRESSES DAMAGED

On the ground floor were valuable presses, several of which were damaged. The heat melted inking rollers, and extensive repairs and replacements will be necessary.

Cope Press Limited originally belonged to Mr. W. Cope, a former secretary of the Norwood Football Club, who is now the managing director. Mr. Cope was at Port Noarlunga and did not hear of the fire until this morning, when he hurried to the city.

He said yesterday that 10 men would be out of work temporarily, but the company hoped to secure other premises in which to continue its work temporarily. The stock and plant were insured for £4,000. The building is not owned by the company.

The fire had obtained too great a hold for the brigade to prevent heavy damage, and for a time all they could do was to concentrate on preventing its spread.

Mr. Jack Barnes, of the Tavistock Hotel, forced his way into the burning building when he had warned the fire brigade, but he was driven out by the heat and falling pieces of ceiling.

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Saturday 1 February 1930, page 3**

#### WEATHER HOT FOR WEEK-END

#### FALSE ALARM

A sudden hot spell yesterday caused the electric fire alarm at T. J. Richards & Sons, Ltd., motor body builders, Keswick, to function. The Fire Brigade rushed to the works, but found no fire. False alarms caused in this way have occurred before, but are rare.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 3 February 1930, page 8**

### COTTAGE ROOF BURNED

Fire in Morphett Street

Caused by burning grass in Trinity churchyard setting alight a creeper on its front verandah, a four-roomed cottage in Morphett street, Adelaide, suffered severe damage by fire this morning. The fire quickly spread along the verandah to the roof. Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call at 9.52 o'clock. Most of the roof of the building was destroyed. The cottage has been unoccupied for some time. Messrs. Steele & Calder are agents for the property. The land on which the cottage stands is one of the original town acres which, in 1839, was made over by the Government to Charles Crippen.



FIRE WRECKS COTTAGE IN MORPHETT STREET TODAY—Burning grass in Trinity Churchyard set light to a creeper on the front verandah of this vacant cottage. The fire caused extensive damage to the roof. Inset is a snap of Fireman W. F. Goreham, of Metropolitan Fire Brigade, who found the fire and temperature combined "a bit too hot."

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 6 February 1930, page 9**

### FIRE AT ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL

#### PACKING CASES DESTROYED TRAM SERVICE DELAYED

Flames and dense smoke issuing from the rear of St. Peter's Cathedral shortly after 6.40 p.m. yesterday caused much alarm.

The North Adelaide Fire Brigade and a reel from head station were quickly on the scene, and discovered that about eight packing cases containing straw and paper were alight. The firemen had to fight the flames in dense smoke, the fire was soon quelled. The cases had previously contained parts of a new organ recently installed at the Cathedral. It was at first feared that the fire would spread to a room in the yard at the rear of the cathedral and then to the main building, which is about six yards away. The trams bound to and from Croydon, Kilkenny, Enfield, and Prospect were delayed from 6.48 until 7.6, on account of fire hoses having been run across the tracks.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 7 February 1930, page 12**

PROTECTION FROM FIRE MODERN APPLIANCES

Men and Service Efficient

South Australia is as well equipped with firefighting appliances, and has men in its fire brigades as efficient as any in Australia, according to Mr. E. Frinsdorf, who has been chairman of the Fire Brigades Board since 1909. Mr. Frinsdorf has seen many improvements including the establishment in 1919 of an auxiliary station at Tanunda. Previously permanent men were retained at the larger country centres, but a change in this system was adopted on the recommendation of Mr. Frinsdorf. Under this system the Fire Brigades Board provides a township with a station, and a fully equipped firefighting appliance. There are no permanent firemen, but four citizens—three firemen and one foreman—act as auxiliary firefighters. They work in the township, but each night two sleep at the station. In each town where there is an auxiliary brigade, there is a siren alarm, which can be started by a telephone ring. If a person rings up the fire station the tele-phone operator asks if it is a case of fire. If it is the siren is set in motion, and the firemen called to the station.

Fourteen Country Stations

Mr. Frinsdorf said that auxiliary stations were established at Tanunda, Port Augusta, Kapunda, Moonta, Kadina, Wallaroo, Balaklava, Burra, Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Mallala, Renmark, and Berri. He would open a station at Port Lincoln within a few days. The introduction of such stations, he declared, had resulted in the cost of country fire protection being halved, while just as efficient services were provided as when permanent men were employed. In 1926 a new motor firefloat was installed for work at Port Adelaide, and it had proved a great success. It had petrol-driven pumps capable of pumping 2,500 gallons of water a minute. The float cost £18,000, but in one fire it was estimated that it had saved more than the amount spent on it. It is the only firefloat of its kind in Australia. Mr. Frinsdorf has seen many changes since his appointment as representative of Adelaide City Council on the Fire Brigades Board in 1909. He was appointed chairman at the first meeting of the Board that year.

Change to Motors

Then there were 13 stations in South Australia, with 80 permanent firemen and seven auxiliaries. Today there are 26 stations and approximately 112 permanent firemen and 99 auxiliaries. When Mr. Frinsdorf became associated with the board horses drew all South Australian fire engines and pumps. Other appliances were driven by steam. A few weeks after he became chairman of the board the first motor propelled appliance was installed. It was a pump. Today there are no horse-drawn vehicles attached to South Australian brigades. All appliances are petrol-driven. Mr. Frinsdorf succeeded Mr. Frank Johnson (former Mayor of Adelaide) as representative on the Fire Brigades Board. When the constitution of the Board was altered in 1913 Mr. Frinsdorf, as chairman, became the representative of the Government. In 21 years he has seen the money expended annually on fire protection grow from £18,347 to more than £50,000 a year.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 10 February 1930, page 1**

FIRE AT KENT TOWN

Factory Destroyed; Houses Damaged

ESTIMATED LOSS EXCEEDS £3,000

Fire destroyed the furniture factory of Mr. J. Morris, 35 Rundle street, Kent Town, about 5.30 o'clock this morning, and damaged the premises of Mr. H. Johns (next door) and other buildings in the vicinity. One spark destroyed a mattress more than 100 yards from the

factory. Damage to the factory is estimated at £3,000. Portion of the loss is covered by insurance.

About four hours before the large fire a small outbreak in front of the premises destroyed a piano case in which Kensington and Norwood Corporation employes had been keeping tools for their work near the Norwood tramlines. Several residents are of opinion that the first fire, the origin of which is not known, threw out a spark which started the other. The factory, which covered a large area between Rundle and Little Rundle streets, was a mass of wreckage when viewed afterward. Charred wood and scorched iron and water-rusted machinery made a desolate picture.

It was evident that the building was doomed when the Adelaide and Norwood Fire Brigades arrived shortly after 5.40. The fire was extinguished at 6.18. Two pumps and four lines of hose were in use. Had the wind been blowing from a more westerly direction, a number of houses on the eastern side of the factory may have been destroyed, as there is much dry grass in the yards. Flames passed through the rear of the cycle shop of Mr. Johns (next door) and into his adjoining dwelling.

#### LOSS OF FORMER FOOTBALLER

Mr. Johns, who is a former Norwood footballer, estimated the damage sustained at £200. The loss is covered by insurance. One of the first to observe the initial outbreak was Mr. A. McArthur, who lives a few doors away. "As soon as I noticed that the piano case was alight between 1 and 2 o'clock I rang the Fire Brigade. It is a mystery how it started. I got the tools out of the case." Miss T. Harrison, from a house on the other side of Rundle street, observed the second blaze—about 5.30—and reported it to her grandmother. "It was dreadful," said Mrs. D. King, who lives in King William street, more than 100 yards away. "My two boys were sleeping out when a spark blew over and set alight to a new mattress. Of course, it had to be one of my good ones! We used buckets of water to put out the flying sparks. One of the telegraph poles nearby looked like a lighted torch."

#### FOWLS DISAPPEAR

"My heart was in my mouth because my insurance ran out about a year ago," remarked Mrs. M. Neate, of King William street, who lost several fowls, and had her back fence damaged. "I will always insure my property after this," she declared. Mr. P. Daly, who was sleeping in a flat at Little Rundle street owned by Mrs. J. Calder, of Kent terrace, Norwood, awakened to find flames coming through his window. "Someone called out, and I grabbed what I could of my belongings and took them outside," he said. Three charred and paneless windows testified to the truth of the words of Mr. Daly and of Mr. C. Girdler, who had been sleeping in the next room of the flat. Mr. A. Murrin, who was on the same property, escaped without loss, but the walls were damaged slightly. All three inmates of the flat would have fared much worse had the wind changed its venue a little.



FURNITURE FACTORY DESTROYED BY FIRE AT KENT TOWN THIS MORNING—The property belongs to Mr. J. Morris, 35 Rundle street. The blaze, which was fanned by a breeze, occurred about 5.30 o'clock. It also damaged the premises of Mr. H. Johns next door, and of other neighbors. Firemen are shown viewing the mass of charred wood, scorched iron, and water rusted machinery.

***Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Tuesday 11 February 1930, page 28***



KENT TOWN FURNITURE FACTORY DESTROYED BY FIRE: A general view of the burnt out factory, the property of Mr. J. Morris. The fire occurred about 5.30 a.m. yesterday. The damage is estimated at £1,000. Portion of the loss is covered by insurance. The fire had a firm hold when the Adelaide and Norwood Fire Brigades arrived shortly after 5.40, and two pumps and four lines of hose were used before the blaze was extinguished at 6.18.

***Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Tuesday 11 February 1930, page 26***

#### NIGHT FIRE IN CITY WAREHOUSE

Large Block Of Buildings Endangered

WHAT threatened to be a serious fire broke out in a block of two-story buildings in Chesser street, city, between Grenfell and Pirie streets, late last night, but prompt action by the Fire Brigade prevented it from spreading from the warehouse of Robert Bryce, & Co., Pty., Ltd., merchants and importers, where the fire started. Furniture and stock on both floors and in the basement were damaged by fire and water, and part of the roof collapsed. Several reels were sent from the fire station and firemen, making use of the ladders, had to force an entrance in the upper floor. It was about half an hour before the fire was under control.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 11 February 1930, page 14***

#### CITY ENVELOPED IN PALL OF SMOKE

Blaze in Chesser-street

### GOOD WORK BY FIREMEN

Dense smoke enveloped the city shortly after 11.15 p.m. on Monday, when a fire broke out in the warehouse of Messrs. Robert Bryce & Co., Pty., Ltd, in York Buildings, Chesser-street.

The warehouse is in the centre of a block of buildings, and good work by the fire brigade prevented other sections of the block being severely damaged. Mr. Albert Hamel, a night watchman, was patrolling Chesser-street when he noticed smoke and flames issuing from the rear of York Building. At the same time Constable Nation noticed the smoke, and, with Mr. Hamel, he notified the Fire Brigade. Within 90 seconds of the summons three appliances, under Deputy Chief-Officer G. P. Cooper, arrived from headquarters. By that time a dense pall of smoke had enveloped that part of the city, and an occasional flame darted high into the air. Four lines of hose were run to the fire from Grenfell and Pirie streets and Gawler-place. The firemen found that the fire was centred in the section of the building occupied by Messrs. Robert Bryce & Co.

#### Stock Well Alight

There was a good pressure of water. Firemen were placed in the front and at the back at the buildings, which is of two storeys and a basement. On each floor was a large quantity of stock, which was well alight before the brigade arrived. Smoke helmets were worn by some of the firemen who entered the building with hoses, and soon there was water a foot deep in the basement. From tall ladders water was poured on to the burning section. Efforts made to prevent the fire from spreading to the other sections of the buildings occupied by Messrs T. A. Powell & Co., Ltd., hardware merchants; Messrs. C. H. Cooling & Co., importers and manufacturers' agents; and Messrs. L. G. Abbott & Co., paint and glass merchants were successful.

#### Large Crowd Gathers

Their attention having been drawn by the smoke, a large crowd gathered at the scene of the fire. Inspector H. Church, Sergeant J. Naylor, and a party of police officers supervised the motor and pedestrian traffic. At 11.50 p.m. the fire was well under control. Investigations showed that the premises of Robert Bryce had been badly damaged. The stock on each floor was damaged by fire or water. The fire had burnt holes in the first and second floors, which made the work of the firemen dangerous. An estimate of the damage could not be ascertained last night, but it is thought that the loss will amount to over £1,000. Good work by the firemen saved the rest of the block of buildings. The premises next to Messrs. Robert Bryce and Co. were unoccupied, but the remainder contained large stocks of goods.

#### **Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Friday 14 February 1930, page 3**

Fire In City Furniture Factory Causes £2,000 Damage

WHOLE BUILDING CONSUMED IN HALF AN HOUR

Fireman Knocked Unconscious By Shock From High Tension Wire

A WOOD and iron building in Winniford street, [actually Winiford Street from 1936 Gregorys street directory] off Sturt street, city, containing furniture, timber, and machinery, was completely burnt out in about half an hour last night. The premises were occupied by A. Gibson & Co., chair manufacturers, and Mr. Frank Dear, french polisher. The damage to stock, which was insured, is estimated at £900, and the total damage will be about £2,000. While the brigades were fighting the flames, Fireman Price received a severe shock when a high tension electric wire fell and touched his helmet. He was knocked unconscious, but recovered in a few minutes.

The fire was first noticed in the north east corner of the building about 7.20 p.m. All appliances from head station, under Chief Officer Dickie, turned out at 7.30. When the brigade arrived the building was alight from end to end. Two motor pumps were put into

operation, and five lines of hose, making a total length of 3,000 ft., were used. Twenty-five officers and men were on the scene. Flames leaping 20 ft. high attracted crowds from everywhere. The streets were blocked with motor cars, but the fire was over in half an hour, and just a heap of blackened timber and twisted sheets of iron remained. A lean-to shed adjoining a lane at the southern end of the fire collapsed under the weight of about 20 boys and girls who were trying to obtain a good view of the fire. The air was full of legs, and the children screamed with fright. When they had extricated themselves a man was found nearly unconscious from a blow on the head, caused by a falling beam. He recovered after first aid treatment. The tops of two telegraph poles in Winniford street, and a shed at the back of the Adelaide Electric Supply Company's sub-station caught alight. The firemen had to concentrate at the rear of the premises to prevent the flames from spreading to the Electric Supply Company's building, where there is valuable machinery.

#### CARRIER'S BUSINESS ENDANGERED

A high wall on the northern side of the furniture factory saved the premises of Mr. J. E. Newman, carrier. Furniture wagons, trollies, and other vehicles were hurriedly moved out of danger by workmen employed by Mr. Newman. One van loaded with furniture worth more £200 was dragged out into Sturt street. There was a danger of the wall collapsing because of the heat and water. As it was, water caused much damage to Mr. Newman's stock.

#### MOTOR LORRY SAVED

Before the brigade had arrived, Mr. O. Miller broke through a small door which leads into a lane along the southern side of A. Gibson & Co. Mr. C. Somerville jumped through and opened the big doors. With the assistance of Mr. F. House, he pulled a motor lorry put of the burning building. Fences across the lane had begun to catch fire when the hoses were played on them just in time. The mother of Mr. Frank Dear lives at the end of a row of cottages opposite the premises, in Winniford street. To play the water more directly on to the blaze, two firemen climbed on to her roof, and it broke through in one place. A. Gibson & Co. consists of three partners — Messrs. A. Gibson, J. Lampre, and R. Thomas. They employed five men, and estimate damage to stock and machinery at about £600. They rented the building from Mrs. E. E. Pearce. Mr. Dear estimates his damage at £300. He employed one man and a boy.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 14 February 1930, page 19***

#### FIERCE BLAZE IN CITY

#### TWO FACTORIES GUTTED FLAMES SIXTY FEET HIGH

Damage Over £1,000

Fire destroyed the factories of Messrs. A. Gibson & Co., chair frame manufacturers, and Mr. Frank Dear, French polisher, in Winniford-street, City, early on Thursday evening. The damage was estimated at over £1000. Smoke and flames from the burning block could easily be seen for miles around the city. The stock of both factories, which were in the same building, was inflammable, and this caused the fire to be most spectacular. There were no persons on the premises at the time of the outbreak. The cause of the fire is unknown. One of the first persons to notice the fire was Mr. M. Goldberg, of South-terrace, whose motor garage adjoined the factory of Messrs. A. Gibson & Co. He was about to drive his car from the garage when he saw flames, accompanied by smoke, issuing from the front of the factory. He immediately telephoned to the Fire Brigade, and four appliances from head station were quickly dispatched. Mr. Goldberg then played his garden hose on to his back fence and garage, to prevent the fire spreading to his premises.

#### Spectacular Fire

The firemen on arrival found that the premises were enveloped in flames, which were leaping about 60 ft. into the air. Thick black smoke was also issuing to a great height. Six lines of

hose was run from Hydrants in South-terrace and Gilbert-street. The firemen executed good work to prevent the fire getting a good hold on to the store, which adjoined the premises occupied by Mr. J. E. Newman, general carrier. The firemen had a hopeless task before them to quell the blaze. The premises were constructed of wood and iron, and had a 60-foot frontage, with a depth of 80 feet. They were partitioned. Messrs. A. Gibson & Company occupying one half and Mr. Dear the other.

#### Polish and Spirits Ignite

In the front portion of the polishing factory there was about 50 gallons of inflammable oils and spirits. When the flames reached them there were slight explosions, and the liquids were quickly involved in the fire. Station-Officer A. Griffin, who had charge of the firemen, managed to get the blaze centred in the two factories, and it was not long before the flames had died down and the fire was under control. There was a good pressure of water.

#### Mass of Ruins

The two factories were a mass of ruins. The roof and front portion had collapsed to the ground. Some of the firemen had narrow escapes from being injured by falling pieces of debris. Electric light wires were broken, and one fireman was struck by a falling cable. He only sustained slight shock and was able to continue working.

#### Other Premises Endangered

Winniford-street is very narrow, and in front of the two factories are a row of detached houses, the nearest one being occupied by Mrs. M. A. Dear, mother of Mr. Frank Dear. Had a strong westerly wind been blowing the houses in the street would probably have been set alight. Several houses were slightly scorched by the flames, and in a few instances the paint on the verandah posts was severely blistered. Two electric light posts in the street caught alight, but were quickly extinguished. At the rear of the factories are a transforming station of the Adelaide Electric Supply Company and Mr R. G. Lock's butter factory. Neither of the premises was damaged.

#### Loss Partly Covered by Insurance.

There are three partners in the firm of A. Gibson & Co., Messrs. A. Gibson, J Lampre, and K. Thomas. After the fire they said they estimated their loss at approximately £600. They were carrying a fairly large stock of chairs and timber. Recently several new machines had been installed. As the result of the fire, six men would be put out of employment. Their loss is partly covered by insurance. Mr Dear had only two persons employed by him. He said that his loss would amount to about £300. He also had two new polish spraying machines destroyed. On the premises were a large quantity of methylated spirits and varnishing oils which were highly inflammable. The premises are owned by Mrs. E. E. Pearce. It was fortunate that the fire did not get a hold on the premises of Mr. Newman, which contained a large quantity of furniture owned by various people and was kept there for storage purposes. Some of the furniture was slightly damaged by fire and water.

#### Large Crowd Attracted

The fire attracted a large crowd of sightseers and the main thoroughfares surrounding the locality were filled with motor vehicles and pedestrians. Superintendent McGrath and Inspectors Howie and Miller, with a party of police, controlled the traffic. Complaints were made to the police by residents of Winniford-street of actions of a large number of youths who attended the fire. They swarmed roofs of houses and fences. On top of a roof of a shed in a vacant paddock nearby were nearly 40 lads. The roof gave in and the youths were thrown heavily to the ground One of them was rendered unconscious for a short time, but later he left the scene uninjured. Some roof gutters of houses were damaged by persons attempting to climb them.

#### Fireman Disappears

A line of hose was run through the premises of Mr. Newman and played on to the fire in the factory through a window. A fireman was compelled to stand on the top of a wardrobe which was in a packing case to hold the hose, and as an officer was giving him instructions he unexpectedly disappeared. The top of the piece of furniture had given away. The fireman fell through and was only got out with the assistance of several bystanders, who dragged him up to safety.

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Saturday 15 February 1930, page 7**

**BRASS HELMETS ARE SAFE**

Wet Headgear Transmits Current, Says Fire Chief

"Accidents to firemen through wearing the brass helmets are few and far between. I have had experience of them for 45 years," said Chief Officer J. E. Dickie, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, last night when referring to the accident to Fireman Price at a fire in the West-End on Thursday, when his helmet touched a fallen live wire. Fireman Price received only slight shock, Mr. Dickie added, and any sort of head covering, if wet, would have caused a similar mishap. He said there had been a wide-world controversy as to the relative merits of leather, brass, and other metal, and composition helmets, but when saturated with water, they had all proved to be conveyers of electricity. The helmets were used to protect the heads of firemen from falling, debris and metal, and as they proved satisfactory in other parts of the world, it was not intended to make any alteration in this State.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 18 February 1930, page 1**

**£3000 BLAZE AT SOUTHWARK**

Outbreak Attributed to Safeblowers

**OFFICES OF J. KITCHEN & SONS DESTROYED**

Damage estimated at more than £3,000 was caused early this morning by a fire which destroyed the offices and one of the storerooms of J. Kitchen & Sons, Limited, soap manufacturers, at the corner of Winwood and Holland streets, Southwark. The outbreak is believed to have been started by safeblowers, who unsuccessfully attempted to force open a safe. Effective work by firemen prevented the fire from spreading to other buildings.

The premises are of brick, with the exception of the rear part of the storeroom, which is immediately at the back of the offices and attached to them. Thebarton Fire Brigade received the call at 3.1 o'clock this morning. The firemen were under Superintendent F. F. Hopkins. Assistance was sought from Adelaide and North Adelaide brigades because of the many factories in the locality containing inflammable material. The outbreak started in a corner where a safe is built in the brickwork. Everything in the office was burned and practically every article in the storeroom destroyed or damaged. A long storeroom at the south-western end of the premises and about 20 yards from the offices was saved, in addition to hundreds of cases in the yard. Mr. H. C. Nankervis (manager of J. Kitchen & Sons, Limited) said that when Thebarton Fire Brigade arrived the offices were well alight. According to Mr. Nankervis burglars who entered the office and tried to blow open the safe caused the fire. They evidently had been disturbed by the night watchman about 2 o'clock, and left a fuse smouldering. An expert who examined the safe said there was no doubt that an attempt had been made to force it open by explosives. It was the third unsuccessful attempt. Bags had been used as packing to deaden the sound. It was those that had probably caught fire.



INSPECTING SAFE AT KITCHEN & SONS, SOUTHWARK—It is believed that a fire on the premises early this morning was caused by thieves who attempted to rifle the safe. In the photograph are (left to right) :—Messrs. G. Paterson (safe expert), H. C. Nankervis (manager of J. Kitchen & Sons, Limited), F. B. Anderson (Union Assurance Society), and Supt. F. F. Hopkins (Thebarton Fire Brigade).

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 19 February 1930, page 18**

#### FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

#### HAM AND BEEF SHOP ON FIRE

The ham and beef shop of Mr. A. V. Brown, Grote-street, was discovered to be on fire by Constable Manfield about 3.30 a.m. yesterday. The fire brigade extinguished the flames. Slight damage was done.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 21 February 1930, page 19**

#### PAYNEHAM FIRE

#### WIND ENDANGERS COTTAGES

A fire which broke out at 7.15 last night on the site of a former box factory in Lewis-street, Payneham, caused considerable alarm to neighbors. A large heap of old sawdust became alight and the sparks blew into a large paddock adjoining, setting the grass on fire. The strong wind sent the flames sweeping across the field toward some cottages and gardens. The arrival of the Norwood Fire Brigade prevented a serious fire. Later the Norwood brigade were relieved by firemen from the city brigade, who stood by during the night.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 27 February 1930, page 15**

#### FIRE IN RUNDLE-STREET

About 11.30 o'clock last night the Fire Brigade received a call to a fire which had broken out in the Elite Hemstitching and Pleating Depot in Haigh's Buildings. Four appliances were sent, and the flames were quickly extinguished. The damage was confined to the room in which the fire occurred. It is believed that the outbreak was caused by the omission of an employe to switch off an electric iron.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 27 February 1930, page 13***

#### AUXILIARY FIREMEN

In explaining the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act in reference to country stations, Mr. E. Frinsdorf (chairman of the Fire Brigades Board) said that the auxiliary fire stations in South Australia comprised all those outside the metropolitan area, with the exception of Gawler and Port Pirie. Of all the stations in the State, 12 were manned by permanent men, and 14 by auxiliary firemen.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 1 March 1930, page 5***

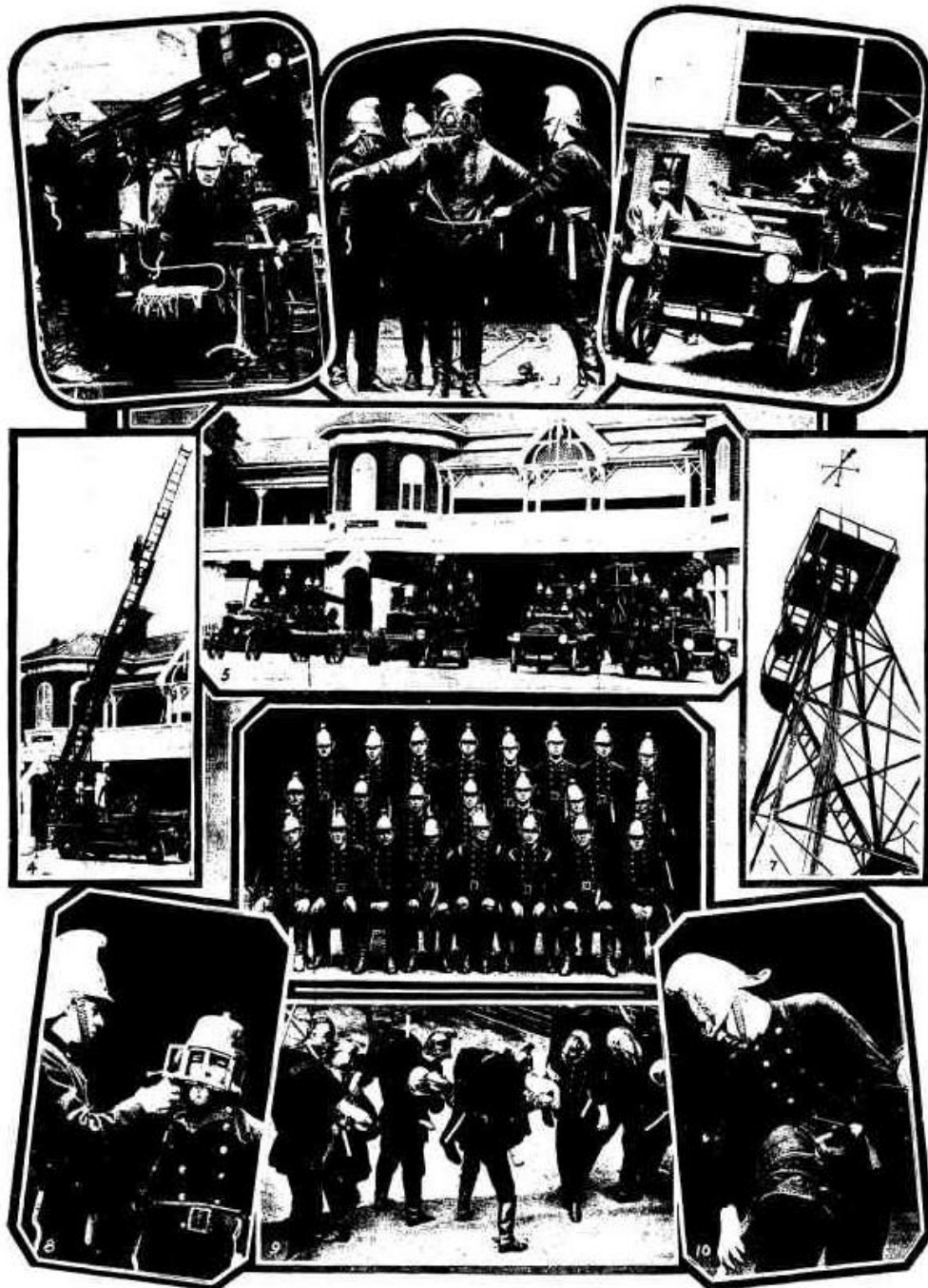
#### FIRE BRIGADE'S REPORT

##### Increase in False Alarms

In his annual report for 1929 Mr. E. Frinsdorf (chairman of the South Australian Fire Brigades Board) points out that during the year Port Augusta West was included in the Port Augusta fire district. Half-yearly inspections of the city, suburban, and country stations revealed that the brigades were working satisfactorily. Mr. J. E. Dickie (chief officer) in his report states that during the year 568 calls were received, a decrease of 21 compared with the preceding year. Calls were classified as follows:—Serious damage, 12; great damage, 60; slight damage, 186; grass and rubbish fires, 87; chimney fires, 18; justified alarms, six; line faults, 56; malicious false alarms, 38. Compared with the previous year there was a decrease of 19 of serious damage, a decrease of 38 of great damage, an increase of 12 slight damage, a decrease of 23 grass and rubbish fires, a decrease of seven justified alarms, a decrease of seven line faults, and an increase of 53 malicious false alarms. Auxiliary theatre staffs had been regularly drilled and instructed in the use of fire appliances installed. Authorised strength of the brigade was 110 permanent firemen, 57 auxiliary firemen, and 44 theatre auxiliary firemen, making a total of 211. Discipline and general efficiency of the brigade had been satisfactory. Mr. Dickie expresses appreciation of the co-operation and the efficient manner in which the officers performed their duties.

***Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 1 March 1930, page 33***

#### EFFICIENCY IS THE KEYNOTE OF ADELAIDE'S FIRE-FIGHTERS



The above pictures give a graphic idea of how the members of the Fire Brigade and their appliances, by keeping in constant practice, are always ready for emergencies. 1. All set for a fire. 2. Adjusting a fume mask. 3. Overhauling—a daily task. 4. Climbing an extension ladder.

5. The head station, with motor reels and pumps outside. 6. Members of the staff. Chief-Officer Dickie is the fourth from right in front row. 7. Aloft on the head station look-out tower.

8. Attaching a telephone mask to a fireman. 9. Life-saving practice. 10. Pumping air into a fume mask.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 5 March 1930, page 4**

#### MOTOR LORRY ON FIRE

A motor lorry owned by Jackson and Co., Limited, of Currie street, and driven by Mr. L. Tickle, caught fire near the corner of King William and Pirie streets as a result of the engine backfiring. Adelaide Fire Brigade extinguished the blaze after slight damage had been done.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit  
[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)  
28 April 2026

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Thursday 6 March 1930, page 3**

### TYRE RETREADING PLANT BURNT

West-End Fire Causes £500 Damage



Yesterday was trying for firemen, because, to add to the discomforts of the heat wave, they had to attend a fire at a tyre repairing plant in the city.

MOST of the contents of the building of the Advance Tyre Service, at the corner of Franklin and Morphett streets were destroyed in a fire yesterday afternoon. A boiler and the retreading plant were damaged. It is estimated that the total loss is about £500. The Fire Brigade was called at 3.12 p.m., and in a few minutes the firemen had the outbreak under control. Windows facing Morphett street were smashed, and all the woodwork in the building was badly charred. The heat was so intense that a telephone pole on the kerb was blackened. The plant is operated by Mr. W. H. Dorcian, of Croydon Park.

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Wednesday 12 March 1930, page 3**

### Fire Breaks Out In City Furniture Store

Fire caused several hundred pounds worth of damage at the furniture store of N. Solomon & Co., Ltd., Gouger street, early yesterday morning. The alarm was given at 1.39 a.m., and the fire brigade, under Chief Officer Dickie, attacked the flames from Mill street, which runs along the premises. The fire was soon under control. Furniture and bedding stored at the back of the building, was destroyed. The property was insured. Several people sleeping at the Adelaide creche nearby were smoked out. Firemen prevented some of the swings and other equipment there from being burned.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 18 March 1930, page 17**

### TAR ON FIRE

A quantity of tar and pitch caught alight at the electrical engineering plant of Messrs. Ellis & Clarke, in Franklin-street, on Monday night. The Fire Brigade extinguished the blaze. A galvanised iron shed was slightly damaged.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 28 March 1930, page 19**

#### FIRE IN THE CITY

##### PREMISES SERIOUSLY DAMAGED

The premises of Manufacturers Supplies, Ltd, Currie-street, were damaged by a fire which broke out shortly before 10 o'clock last night. The contents, comprising confectioners' requisites, were rendered worthless by fire and water. Three reels were rushed to the scene, under the direction of Deputy-Superintendent Cooper. Dense volumes of smoke and sparks were pouring out of the roof at the rear of the premises. One line of hose was run into the front entrance of the building, and another hose was taken on to the roof. After 20 minutes' work the flames were subdued, but not before the firm's stock and fittings were badly affected. The building is of two storeys at the front and the one storey at the rear, the latter portion being of wood and iron. It is here that the fire is believed to have originated. The upper storey is tenanted by Messrs. J. J. Barrett & Company, timber and iron merchants. Although dense smoke poured from the windows, an inspection by Mr. J. Barrett revealed that practically no damage was done in that portion of the building. The stock of Manufacturers Supplies, Ltd., which included desiccated cocoanut, cake decorations, icing sugar, confectionery, bottled goods, and a large quantity of corks, suffered severely. The ceiling, rafters, and other woodwork were badly charred, and the glass fittings broken. It was not possible to form an estimate of the damage sustained. The premises on either side are occupied by Fisher Motors, Ltd., and Macks Motors. The prompt action of the Fire Brigade prevented a serious conflagration.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 31 March 1930, page 8**

#### MIDNIGHT FIRE

##### STORE ROOM DAMAGED

The contents of a store room owned by Mr. H. Walsh, proprietor of the Oriental Hotel, were severely damaged by a fire which broke out about midnight on Sunday. The store room, which contained spare furniture, straw-packed cases of glassware and other goods, is situated in Featherstone-place off Gawler-place. The brigade received simultaneous calls from Stephen-place and Gawler-place, and three reels were rushed to the scene. Clouds of smoke necessitated the use of gas masks by the firemen, who got the flames under control in good time.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 28 April 1930, page 15**

#### DOG ON ROOF

##### HOW DID IT GET THERE?

##### POLICE AND FIREMEN TO THE RESCUE

Police and fire brigade officials are puzzled to know how a fox-terrier dog got on the roof of the five-storey building of A. Simpson & Son, Ltd., in Gawler-place last evening. A pedestrian first noticed the plight of the dog and informed Constable Tilka. No way to rescue the dog could be found, and the caretaker of the building made vain attempts. The police then advised the City Fire Station, and a reel with a large ladder attached was sent to the building. A large crowd followed the reel and witnessed the ladder being sent up to the top of the building. A fireman, armed with a bag, was soon on the roof. In the meantime the caretaker found an opened manhole leading on to the roof. He struggled through it, and with the fireman took the

dog in a bag down below again. It is a mystery how the dog reached the roof. If it had got through the manhole it would have had to make a jump of about six feet.

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Monday 5 May 1930, page 3**

Fire In City Office

Fire destroyed most of the contents of the office of Mr. J. R. Barrett, auctioneer, in Gilbert place, city, about 9.30 p.m. yesterday. The office is in a building behind Tattersalls Hotel, and contains Felstead and Omsby's printing works. The fire brigade put out the fire before it spread.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 7 May 1930, page 20**

FIRE IN SHED

The Fire Brigade extinguished a blaze in a small shed at the rear of Hanson Hall, in Hanson-street, last night. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. Slight damage was done to the shed and its contents.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 9 May 1930, page 7**

FIRE BRIGADE SOCIAL

A social evening arranged by Metropolitan Fire Brigade will be held on Wednesday. The fire brigade demonstration has been postponed until Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, May 21, 22, and 23.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 10 May 1930, page 15**

DWELLING DESTROYED

FIRE AT KURRALTA PARK

Mother and Child on Holiday

A four-roomed wood-and-iron house at Kurralta Park was destroyed by fire last night during the absence of the family. Hundreds of people from the Richmond district and many other parts of the metropolitan area were attracted by the spectacular blaze which broke out soon after 8 o'clock in the residence of Mr. J. A. Cain, at Clifford-street. A neighbor, Mr. Mowbray, of Stirling street, Galway Gardens, first noticed the fire, which appeared to have started in the southern portion of the house. He gave the alarm, and informed the Richmond police. The brigade from Thebarton was on the scene within a few minutes, and shortly afterwards other reels from Adelaide and Glenelg arrived, but there was no hope of saving the house or furniture.

Seen from Foothills

Only a few minutes after the fire was first seen the whole building was well alight, and flames were rising about 30 feet above the roof. So fierce was the fire that it could be seen from the foothills. Water was poured on to the blazing structure, but within a short time the interior was gutted, and portions of the wall collapsed, revealing inside a chaotic mass of tangled iron and burnt wood.

Husband at Picture Show

Mr. Cain said he was at a picture show in the city at the time of the fire. He had been "batching" at home, as his wife and old child were away in a fortnight's holiday at Port Noarlunga. He had cooked his evening meal, and some time after seven o'clock had left in his car for the city. He heard the attendant at the picture show asking for Mr. Cain, and, when he replied, was informed that he was wanted at the office. Someone spoke to him there over the phone, and said there was bad news for him. "Naturally, I thought at once of my wife and

child," said Mr. Cain, "but my fears in that direction were set at rest by the news that my house was on fire. I then thought that a joke was being played upon me, but when I learned that Mrs. Gray, a neighbor, was speaking, I knew that it could not be a joke."

Partly Insured

Mr. Cain drove to his home to find the charred remains. He was unable to account for the fire in any way. The furniture and building were only partly insured. Mr. Cain conducts a small cordial factory next to his residence, having lived on the site for many years. He left by car last night to inform his wife of the fire.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 10 May 1930, page 16**

#### FIRE BRIGADE DEMONSTRATION

The officers and men of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade will give a series of demonstrations of fire drill, life-saving, boxing, wrestling, and athletic events at the Wakefield-street Fire Station on May 21, 22, 23, in aid of the Children's Hospital. Those who wish to attend should obtain their tickets early. The charge for admission is 1/, and the amount goes to assist in the general management of the hospital, which is having a very heavy strain placed upon it at the present time, on account of there being so much unemployment.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 17 May 1930, page 16**

#### FIRE BRIGADE DEMONSTRATION

The committee of the Children's Hospital draw attention to an advertisement regarding fire brigade demonstrations to be held at the head station, Wakefield-street, next Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. It is not often that the public have the opportunity of witnessing such an interesting, and at the same time educational entertainment, in which the firemen give an indication of the lighter as well as the serious side of their work. Many people were turned away at the last demonstration, as the space for the public is limited, so sympathisers are invited to arrange for their tickets as early as possible.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 19 May 1930, page 18**

#### FIRE BRIGADE DEMONSTRATIONS

The Fire Brigade demonstrations to be given at the head station. Wake-field-street, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights promise to be something out of the ordinary, as all kinds of life-saving apparatus will be put into use, and a full programme of athletic and other events has also been arranged. The Children's Hospital is to benefit by the charge for admission.

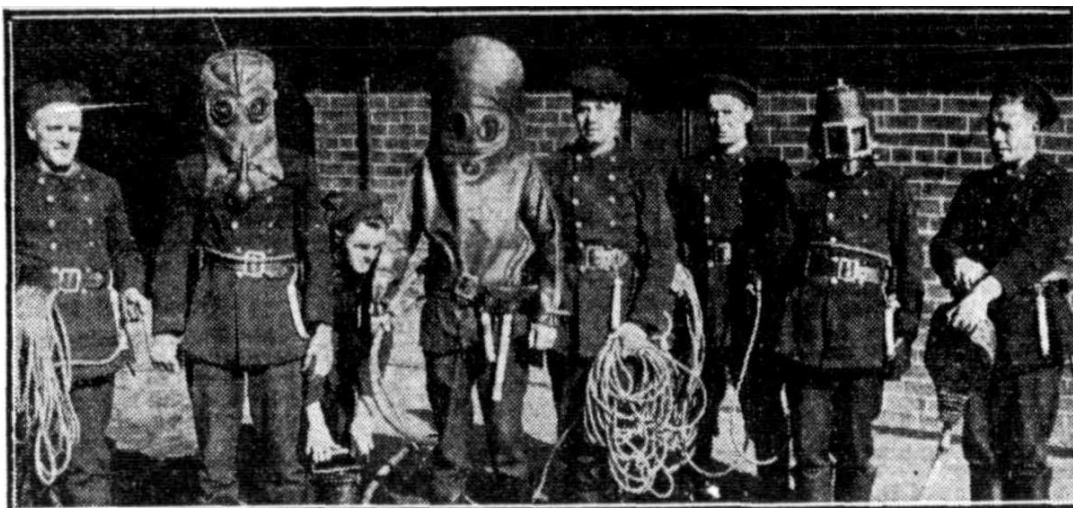
**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 21 May 1930, page 8**

#### Fire Brigade Demonstration

At headquarters station, Wakefield street, tonight, tomorrow, and Friday nights members of Adelaide Fire Brigade will give a demonstration. The programme will embrace all phases of fire brigade work, from a display of the fireman's lift to smoke helmet exercises. Spectators will be shown how apparatus to combat the flames is worked, lifesaving methods, and how firemen keep fit. Proceeds from the demonstration will be handed to the Children's Hospital at North Adelaide.

**Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 22 May 1930, page 47**

#### FIRE-FIGHTING



FEARSOME OBJECTS in their smoke helmets, these members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade will take part in demonstrations in aid of the Children's Hospital— Krischock, photo.



THE FIREMAN'S LIFT, by which insensible people can be carried safely down a ladder, will be demonstrated by firemen at the head station. Wakefield-street,— Krischock, photo.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 23 May 1930, page 22**

#### FIRE IN THE CITY

#### INCENDIARISM SUSPECTED

#### SECONDHAND SHOP RANSACKED

Fire destroyed the contents of the living room at the shop dwelling of Mr. Moses Morris, second-hand dealer, in King William-street south, last night.

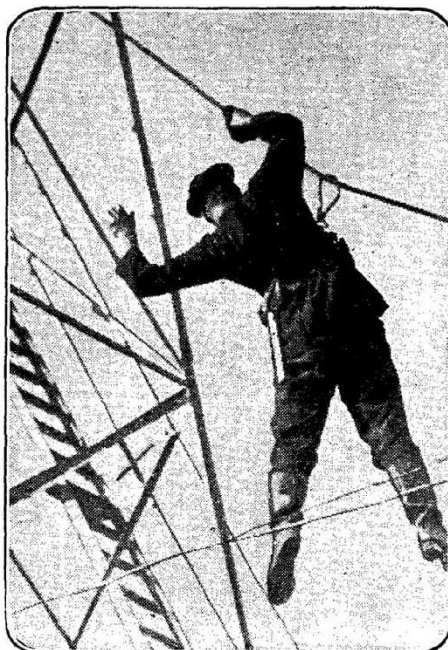
People in King William-street about 11 o'clock noticed smoke coming from the middle of the premises. The Fire Brigade were notified, and two appliances were quickly on the scene. The firemen found that the fire was in the living room. They were able to prevent it from spreading, and except for the contents being destroyed, no other damage was done.

#### Place Searched

Inspector H. Church and Detective P. Bourke made enquiries. An examination revealed that the shop and dwelling had been searched. A hole had been cut in the back door which gave easy access to the lock on the inside. Incendiarism is suspected. The extent of the damage is

not known. Mr. Morris, accompanied by his wife and daughter, left the shop at 7.30 for a friend's home, where he played cards. Shortly before 11.30 he returned to his home to find a crowd outside. On viewing the damage Mrs. Morris collapsed, but she soon recovered.

**Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Thursday 29 May 1930, page 16**



SLIDING DOWN A WIRE from dizzy heights is all in the day's work for members of the Fire Brigade. Another demonstration to assist the Children's Hospital was held last week.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 30 May 1930, page 19**

#### FIRE IN CITY

Printing Works Destroyed

MORE THAN £6,000 DAMAGE

Damage estimated at £6,000 was done to the printing works of Felstead & Ormsby, and the workshops of Posters, by a fire which broke out next to the Wondergraph Picture Theatre during a matinee yesterday afternoon. A man whose legs were burned is in the Adelaide Hospital.

The Fire Brigade received a call to Gilbert-place at 3.42 o'clock, and found that the premises were burning fiercely. Several hoses were put into action, and the brigade soon had the blaze under control. The buildings are owned by Union Theatres, Limited.

#### Petrol Exploded

It was stated that the fire originated in Fosters through a tin of petrol exploding. Owing to the inflammable nature of paints and other materials used in the making of posters, the workshops were soon alight. The fire quickly spread from Posters into Messrs. Felstead & Ormsby's printing works, which are in the same building. The whole of the machinery, papers, and other articles were destroyed.

#### Printing Works Insured

The stock and plant of the printing works were insured with the Northern Insurance Company, the North British Insurance Company, and the Triton Insurance Company. Mr. Ormsby said he was in his office when he heard someone call out "Fire." They only had time to collect a

few books and the typewriters and get out of the building before the fire was on them. They would feel the effects of the fire, as next month's stationery was printed and waiting for delivery. He thought it would be necessary to dispense with the services of his employes for the time being, as all the machinery was destroyed.

#### Employe Injured

Colin Alfred Terrell, of Mansfield-street, North Adelaide, an employe of Posters, was admitted to the Adelaide Hospital suffering from burns on the legs received through being hit by some falling debris.



*State Library of South Australia - Gilbert Place, Adelaide [B 5796], [General description] This single storey building has previously been the premises of Felstead and Omsby, Printers. There is a To Let sign in the window. [On back of photograph] 'Acre 78 / Gilbert Place (off Hindley Street) / West side / June 27th 1930 / Near side of shops is 43 yards south of Hindley Street and frontage is 12.5 yards'. Approximately 1930. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 78 Collection.*

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Friday 30 May 1930, page 4**

Audience Sits Through Talkie While Nearby Building Burns

## ONLY WALL SEPARATES IT FROM FLAMES

Printing Works Destroyed In City

### EMPLOYEE BURNED

Only one wall separated a talkie audience at the Wondergraph Theatre yesterday from a fire which almost completely destroyed the printing works of Felstead and Omsby, Gilbert place, and Posters Ltd. The buildings were owned by Union Theatres, Limited. The theatre audience was unaware of the fire until after the show. Flames were first noticed by one of the employes, who with other workmen tried to put them out with water passed in a chain of buckets. The fire spread rapidly, stimulated by the inflammable paint and canvas material with which the building was stocked, and by the time the fire Brigade arrived it was impossible to save much of the property of Posters, Ltd. Machinery which had only recently been installed, was completely destroyed in Felstead & Omsby's printing works, but the office was not touched, except by water. The buildings and contents were all covered by insurance.

### EMPLOYEE BURNT

Colin Tyrrell, 21, of Mansfield street, North Adelaide, employe of Posters, Ltd., was burned on the right leg while trying to extinguish the flames, and had to be carried out on a stretcher. The crowd gave him a cheer as he sat up smoking a cigarette. He was not badly injured, and after treatment at the Adelaide Hospital was allowed to go home.

### WORKED ALL NIGHT

Posters, Ltd. (Eric A. Loeser, proprietor), were under contract to provide the posters for billing tomorrow of Journey's End, Gold-Diggers of Broadway, and other shows to start on Saturday, and to enable them to do this work they were given the use of the Prince of Wales Theatre last night. Every facility possible was given by other firms.

***Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Monday 16 June 1930, page 3***

### City Fire Destroys Storeroom

When a portion of the roof of a two-storied stable and storehouse collapsed during a fire at the rear of the Black Swan Hotel about midnight yesterday, firemen working underneath just got clear in time. Fireman Whitefield, however, received a severe shock from broken electric light wires. The brigade prevented the fire from spreading to other buildings. The damaged structure, which had heavy stone walls, was practically burnt out, and the contents destroyed. Only a small section of the roof at each end of the building remained upright. The building was used principally as a storeroom. The damage was estimated at £100. Until employes of the Electric Supply Company arrived and cut off the current, the work of the firemen was considerably hampered.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 16 June 1930, page 15***

### FIRE IN THE CITY

#### BUILDING ON NORTH-TERRACE GUTTED

A fire last night gutted an old stone building at the rear of the Black Swan Hotel, North-terrace west. The building measured about 60 ft. by 25 ft., and was used by Messrs. W. Joyce and J. D. Scott as a receiving depot for the goods of country carriers. The alarm was received by the Fire Brigade at 11.22, and two appliances were dispatched. The fire, which is believed to have started at the southern end of the building, where the office is situated, had a firm hold. Dense volumes of smoke rose, and the insulation of a number of electric wires caught alight and made the work of the firemen somewhat difficult. The building was soon burning from end to end, and towards the end portion of the iron roof fell. Two lines of hose were run out, and by midnight the flames had been subdued. There are several buildings close by, and the firemen did well to confine the outbreak to the one structure. Through the breaking of the

electric light wires one of the firemen received a shock, but after receiving first aid he was able to resume his duties. A car parked close to the burning building was removed to safety. A number of parcels stored in the building were destroyed or damaged by water. It is understood that the building was insured.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 27 June 1930, page 25**

NEWS IN BRIEF

A fire broke out last night in the workshop of Messrs. Langsford and Catt, French polishers, Hutt-street, city. It was noticed by Messrs. J. R. O'Connor and A. Hewitt, who, after summoning the brigade, partly extinguished the blaze with water from a tank. Slight damage was done.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 4 July 1930, page 1**

FIRE AT PROSPECT HOME

Owner Awakes to Find Bedroom Alight

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT NEARLY £3,000

Damage estimated at £2,700 was caused by a fire at the home of Mr. C. G. Milne in Fitzroy terrace, Prospect, shortly before 7 o'clock this morning. The owner, who is a partner in the firm of Milne & Co., of Adelaide, was asleep when the fire started. He stated that he did not know how it began. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

First intimation of the fire was received by North Adelaide Brigade at 6.52 o'clock. Firefighters from North Adelaide and Prospect stations were quickly on the scene, and were assisted by a motor pump from the head station. Station-Officer C. Oldham, of North Adelaide was in charge of operations. A brilliant spectacle relieved the dull grey of morning as the men fought the flames. The fire was too far advanced for the firemen to save the home, but rapid work by them resulted in its being extinguished by 7.30.

SIXTEEN ROOMS

By this time the blaze had played havoc with furniture and walls, particularly in rooms in the front and western sides of the house. "I was awakened by a crackling noise," stated Mr. Milne, who has lived in the house for 16 years. My bedroom was alight, and the place was full of smoke.

When I got outside I saw the firemen arrive. Mr. Milne estimated the value of the house at between £7,000 and £8,000. It contained, he said, 16 rooms, most of which were destroyed.

NEIGHBOR AWAKENED

"I was in bed when I heard a noise like a storm coming from miles away," said a neighbor. "I did not worry about it, and later thought that hailstones were falling on the roof. The noise kept me awake. Nearly half an hour later I went to my window and threw up the blind. "I was amazed to see the whole of the gable of Mr. Milne's home ablaze. Flames were shooting up through the roof, and beams of wood looked like coals of fire. I immediately communicated with North Adelaide Fire Brigade, and was told that the firemen were on their way."

Constables Kschammer (Prospect) and Sparshott (Nailsworth) are preparing a report for Mr. H. E. Whittle (Acting City Coroner).

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 8 July 1930, page 9**

MUCH SMOKE, LITTLE FIRE

Outbreak in Tobacco Shop

Considerable difficulty was experienced by the City Brigade in locating the seat of a fire which broke out last night in the tobacco shop of Mr. C. E. Tunney, in Grote-street. Volumes of smoke drew attention to the outbreak. The living rooms above the shop were unoccupied, and a search of the ground and first floors failed to reveal the fire. A fireman with a smoke helmet then descended into the basement, where the fire was located in cases of tobacco and cigarettes. Portion of the stock was damaged.

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Tuesday 8 July 1930, page 12**

#### Respirators Used At Small City Fire

A smoke helmet and respirators were used by firemen last night to enable them to locate a fire in the shop of C. E. Tunney, hairdresser and tobacconist, Grote street, City. When the brigade arrived smoke was emitting from the first floor windows above the shop and saloon. Members of the family, who live upstairs, were out. While some of the firemen forced the back door of the shop others climbed on to the roof and entered the dwelling through the windows. The outbreak was in a cellar, reached through a trapdoor behind the shop counter. A small quantity of stock was damaged.

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Thursday 21 August 1930, page 1**

#### FIREMEN PAY RESPECTS TO LATE SECRETARY



Metropolitan Fire Brigade officials following the funeral of their secretary, Mr. H. W. Brown, who was buried at North Road Cemetery yesterday.

**Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Thursday 28 August 1930, page 16**

#### FIREMEN PAY RESPECTS TO LATE SECRETARY



Metropolitan Fire Brigade officials following the funeral of their secretary, Mr. H. W. Brown, who was buried at North Road Cemetery last week.

*Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Tuesday 2 September 1930, page 12*

BRIGHTER ADELAIDE



Fire Brigade employes did their share towards freshening up the city for the Spring yesterday. Here is one adding a dash of scarlet paint to a fire alarm.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 20 September 1930, page 19***

#### SWITCHBOARD DAMAGED

As the result of a number of wires fusing yesterday afternoon, the switch-board at the office of the Government Architect-in-Chief at Nottingham-terrace. Keswick, was severely damaged. The Fire Brigade extinguished the blaze.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 23 September 1930, page 10***

#### EARLY MORNING FIRE

Damage estimated at several hundred pounds was caused by fire at two shops in Pirie-street early this morning. Shortly after 12.30 the Fire Brigade received a call to the Quick Lunch Cafe, owned by Mr. D. Rawlings. They found that the fire had spread to the basement and into the machinery and metal works of Messrs. Benson Brothers. The brigade quickly had the outbreak under control.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 25 September 1930, page 15***

#### FIRE IN BEDROOM

Shortly before 10 o'clock last night the fire brigade received a call from Angas-street, and on arrival found that a front bedroom of a house owned by Mr. S. C. Davidson was on fire. The brigade soon had the blaze under control. Damage was done to the bed, bedding, and a wardrobe.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 25 September 1930, page 1**

DESTRUCTIVE ADELAIDE FIRE

Several Firms Suffer Heavy Loss

Total Damage Estimated at £27,000

MOTOR CARS AND OFFICES DESTROYED

Fire which broke out in premises numbering 113 to 127 Currie street, Adelaide, in the early hours of this morning, caused damage estimated at £27,000 to buildings and stock. Cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Metropolitan Fire Brigade was summoned at 3.9 o'clock. Shortly afterward all suburban stations were ordered to attend, but their assistance was not required, and they left the burning buildings shortly after 3.30. Water was played on the ruins throughout the morning. The buildings presented a sorry spectacle, all of the upright timber posts having been burned to the ground, motor vehicles destroyed, and large stocks of chassis, wire netting, and leatherware ruined by fire, smoke, and water.

Valued at £18,000, the premises were owned by H. C. Richards Limited and Mr. G. W. Badman. Business firms who occupied offices in the buildings were J. J. Barrett Limited, Warner's First National Pictures, Diabolo Separator Company, Limited, Fisher Motor Sales, H. C. Richards Limited, Quarries Limited, A. W. Cameron, and Crapp & Hawkes Limited. Firemen did sterling work in preventing the blaze from spreading to adjoining structures, and from completely destroying the north-eastern portion of the buildings. Two motor pumps, a hose carriage, and a motor turntable ladder were rushed to the scene by the Metropolitan Brigade. Thirty-seven hoses, with a total length of 4,000 ft., were run out, and two pumps were set in motion. The men surrounded the building, and as the flames gradually decreased they closed in, and were able to work from adjoining roofs. A ladder was extended in Gilles Arcade, and firefighters played a jet of water on the blaze from that precarious position. Deputy Chief Officer G. P. Cooper and Station Officers A. M. Griffin, H. J. Sayers, and F. J. Giles were in charge of operations. Firemen gallantly entered the burning premises and narrowly escaped injury from falling stanchions, iron, and tiles. The heat cracked tiles on the roof, and caused them to fall. One struck the helmet of a fireman, leaving a gaping triangular hole.

Heavy losses were experienced by H. C. Richards, Limited, whose service works and new car assembling department were in the building. Thirty new cars and chassis valued at £3,000 were destroyed. The portion used for service work, was not materially affected, and work will be continued without interruption. Several chassis had not been unpacked in the assembly department. These were completely ruined. Mr. A. S. Richards stated that he did not know how the fire could have started in his firm's building. It was insured with the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Limited. Premises occupied by Fisher Motor Sales and contents, including many new and secondhand cars and trucks, were burned. Mr. T. Dollard (manager) is away on business on the West Coast. It is estimated that this firm's loss sustained is in the vicinity of £5,000. The property was insured with the Palatine Insurance Company, Limited. The offices were gutted, and all furniture and fittings ruined. Valuable documents, kept in the strongroom of Mr. Badman, were not damaged. The plant and stock of Mr. Cameron, situated above the works of Fisher Motor Sales, were ruined. The front portion of the premises in the north-eastern corner is occupied by Warner First National Pictures. The rear part of the office was destroyed, and advertising matter valued at £500, which was insured was lost. Fireproof doors prevented the blaze from extending to the front office, and the vault was not damaged. Film valued at £30,000 was stored in the vault. Secondhand separators worth £40, the property of Diabolo Separator Company, Limited, were extensively damaged, but fireproof doors also saved the stock in the showroom and office. Many valuable business records were burned in the offices leased by J. J. Barrett Limited, and furniture and fittings that were ruined were valued at £150. Crapp & Hawkes, Limited, hardware merchants, had a large stock of

wirenetting stored in the rear of the affected building. A quantity of this was ruined by fire, and it is expected that rust will partly destroy another portion.



DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £27,000 CAUSED BY FIRE IN CURRIE STREET EARLY THIS MORNING—Firemen were kept busy playing streams of water on the smouldering ruins throughout the morning. The buildings were the property of H. C. Richards, Limited, and Mr. G. W. Badman, and were valued at £18,000. Cause of the outbreak is unknown.



State Library of South Australia - Currie Street, Adelaide [B 3589], [General description] H.C. Richards' modern four storey building with its ground floor showroom is viewed from the opposite side of the street. Cars on display can be glimpsed through the plate-glass windows. This showroom was described in 1922 as a 'magnificent motor emporium'. H.C. Richards was one of the earliest importers and dealers of motor vehicles in Adelaide. [On back of photograph] 'Acre 135 & 136 / Currie Street, south side / June 24 1926 / Richards Buildings reconstructed in 1926. For photo. taken after the fire in 1924 see B 2385. Richards Buildings stand on the east corner of Gilles Arcade. Currie St. frontage: 33 yards.' 1926. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 135 Collection.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 6 October 1930, page 5**

#### False Alarm of Fire

In response to a call from Myer Emporium (South Australia) Limited, Rundle street, Adelaide, this morning, the fire brigade rushed several appliances to the premises. But there was no fire. A head had been accidentally knocked off the automatic sprinkler device in the dispatch department, thus causing the alarm to sound at the fire station. Damage in the department by water was negligible.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 13 October 1930, page 9**

#### FIRE IN DANCE HALL

A fire broke out in the dance hall at Italiano Club, Currie-street, early yesterday morning. The Fire Brigade extinguished the blaze, which had destroyed several flooring and skirting boards. A dance had been held in the hall the previous evening.

**Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Saturday 18 October 1930, page 1**

Miraculous Escape.

EXPLOSION OF GAS.

ADELAIDE, Friday

Mr G. L. Barnard, aged 78, had a miraculous escape when an explosion occurred at his home at Gilberton to-day.

Woman boarders complained about the strong smell of gas in the dining room and, obtaining a stepladder, Mr Barnard, with a light, climbed to the ceiling to see if there was a defect in the gas lamp. There was a terrific report and Mr Barnard was hurled from the ladder to the floor. He was picked up in a dazed condition. He is suffering from severe burns on his neck, but otherwise he was uninjured. Ceiling, walls and furniture were damaged. Four doors in the house were blown from their hinges, while the glass in every window was shattered. A small fire occurred, but this was quickly quelled by the brigade.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 28 October 1930, page 9**

#### PETROL TANK EXPLODES

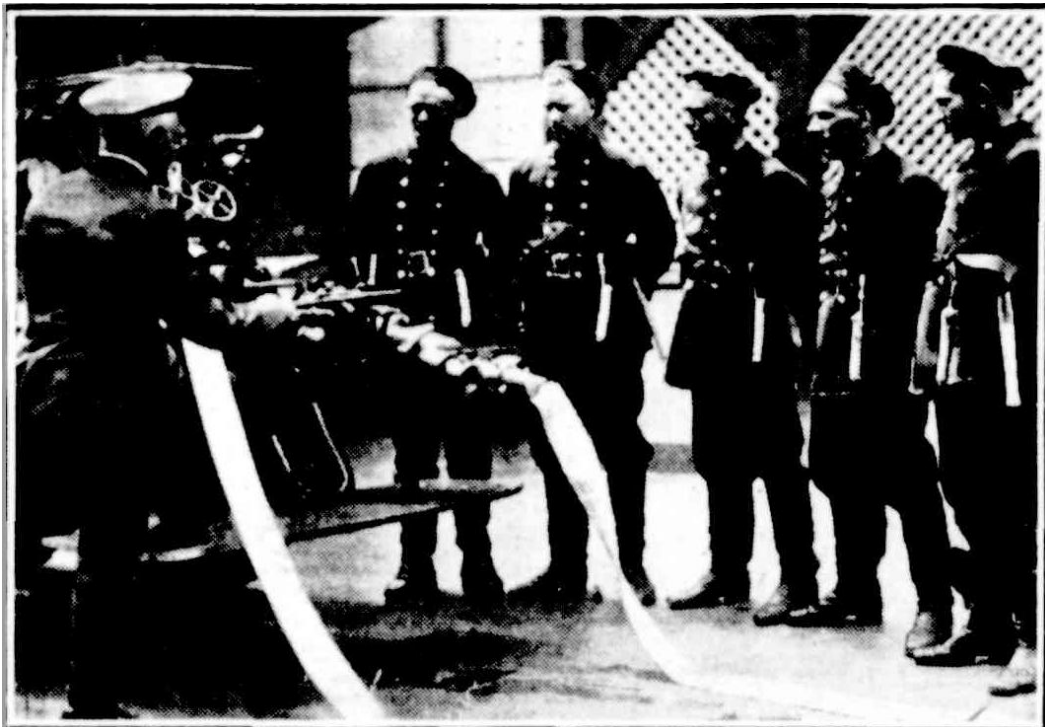
Shortly after 10 o'clock last night the Fire Brigade was called to Light-square, where the body work of a car was burning. With the aid of a chemical extinguisher the brigade quickly had the fire out before much damage was done. The fire was caused through the petrol tank exploding.

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Tuesday 18 November 1930, page 14**

Fire-Fighters Always Ready For Trouble:



To maintain their high standard of efficiency, Fire Brigade members have many full dress rehearsals of their battles with their arch enemy. Firemen receiving instructions in the manning of a 65-ft. ladder.



A squad of firemen receiving instructions in the use of a 600-gallon Dennis pump. Much depends on quickness of action when flames are hungrily devouring a building.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 19 November 1930, page 9***

## CITY FIRE

### OUTBREAK IN RUNDLE-STREET

About 12.45 this morning the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to a fire in a two-storeyed building in Rundle-street, City, next to the Red Lion Hotel, occupied by the Sanitarium Health Food Company, the Bargain Shoe Stores, Miss H. Kreiss, hem-stitcher; the Remodelling Costume Company; Miss Sodili, milliner; Mr. H. C. Rainsford, jeweller; Miss Finn, toilet saloon, and the Electrical Supplies Department. On arrival it was found that the fire was on the first floor, and appeared to be confined to the ceiling. It was extinguished without difficulty, although the contents of some of the rooms were damaged by smoke and water. The alarm was given by Constable Gartner, who was on duty in King William-street. Owing to the early hour there were very few spectators. The Fire Brigade was in charge of Deputy Chief W. Cooper. Sergeant W. Fitzgerald supervised the police.

***Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Thursday 20 November 1930, page 3***

#### Fire In Gard Bros.' Storeroom

Damage estimated at several hundreds of pounds was caused by a fire which broke out in the store room of Gard Brothers, motor cycle distributors, Gouger street, about 11 p.m. yesterday. Firemen kept the flames to the storeroom, only part of which was damaged. Stock and fittings at the premises were insured for £9,000 with the London and Lancashire Company.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 21 November 1930, page 1***

#### FLAMES 200 FEET IN AIR

##### Torrens Lake Dredge Destroyed

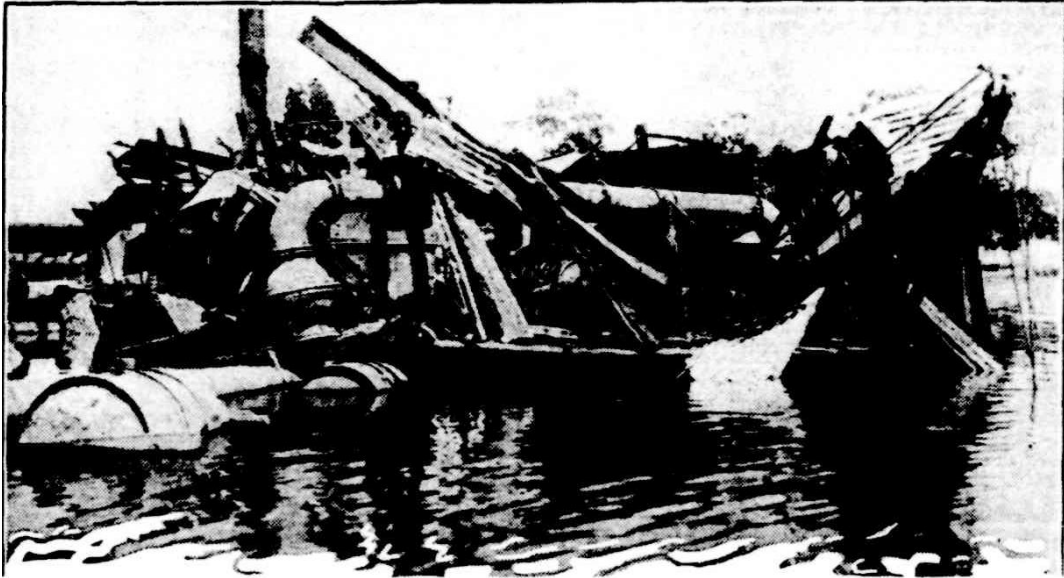
About 4 o'clock this morning the few people in the neighborhood of Torrens Lake witnessed a magnificent spectacle when the dredge on the lake caught fire and was burned to the water's edge. Flames shot into the air to a height estimated at 200 ft. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Railways Detective L. Hodd informed the City Watchhouse that the dredge, which is the property of Adelaide City Council, was on fire. The vessel was situated about 100 yards on the railway station side of Morphett Street Bridge. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was promptly on the scene, but the firemen were unable to get close enough to save the dredge. At 4.40 o'clock there were two terrific explosions, and flames shot into the air about 200 ft. The whole structure above the water collapsed. Soon after the brigade managed to save the hulk. Station-Officer M. Griffin was in charge of the brigade.

Mr. Albert Holland (officer in charge of the dredge) left it at 5 o'clock last night. Today he stated that there was no fire on board then. There were oil drums on the vessel. The dredge was insured for £3,000 with the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Limited, and was valued at about that sum. No estimate of the damage has been made, but it is known to be heavy. Plainclothes V. V. Kennedy is preparing a report for Mr. H. E. Whittle (Acting City Coroner).

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 22 November 1930, page 20***

#### Council Dredge Destroyed:



EARLY YESTERDAY MORNING the City Council's dredge on the Torrens was destroyed. No time was lost by the fire brigade in reaching the scene, but the dredge was inaccessible to the available equipment. Drums of oil on the dredge are thought to have fed the flames. The loss is almost covered by an insurance policy for £3,000. The council's plans for keeping the fairway clear of silt have not been determined.

***Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Thursday 27 November 1930, page 10***

#### Fire In South Parklands

Fire swept about six acres of parklands on South terrace yesterday, and scorched several elms on Sir Lewis Cohen avenue. City Council employes assisted to control the blaze, and the fire brigade also attended.

***Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Thursday 27 November 1930, page 1***

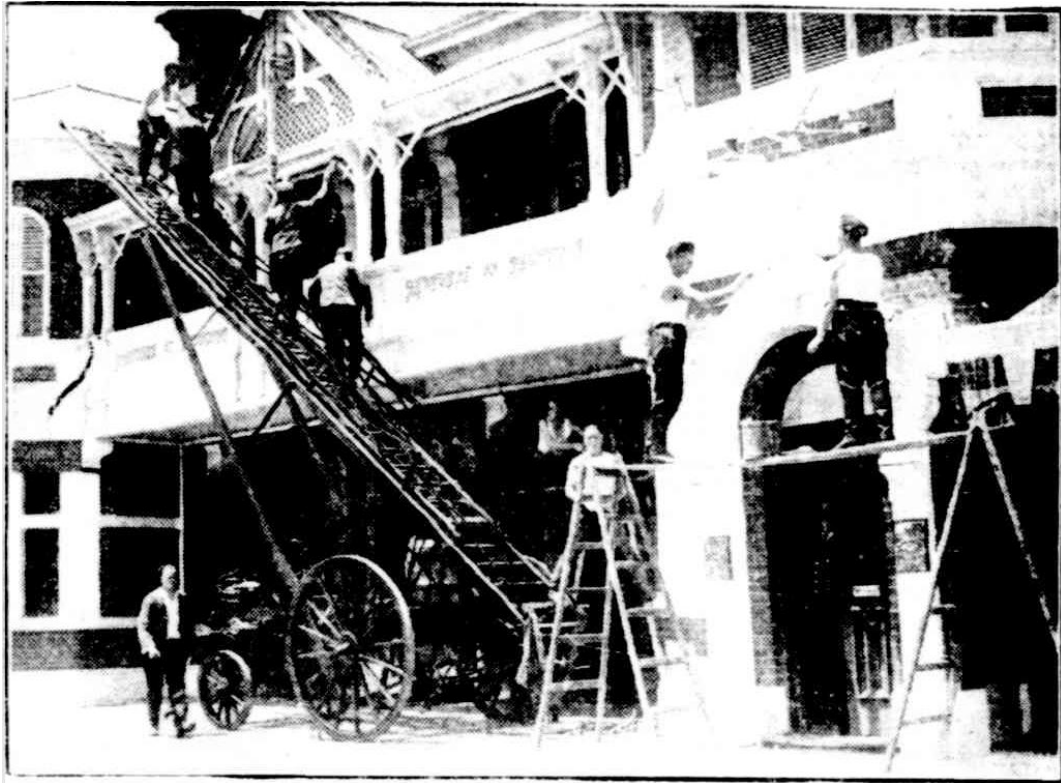
#### FIRST GRASS FIRE OF SEASON SWEEPS SOUTH PARK LANDS



When City Council employes were burning grass in the south parklands yesterday, the fire became uncontrollable in the fierce north wind, and the fire Brigade had to be called. Elms along Lewis Cohen avenue suffered damage.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 29 November 1930, page 20**

Painting the Fire Station



PUTTING A BRIGHT FACE ON THINGS is the task of these firemen. The City Station in Wakefield-street is to be painted, and, with the usual thoroughness of the brigade, all dust and grime is being washed off as a preliminary.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 2 December 1930, page 1**

FIRE BRIGADE DISPLAY

Christmas Gifts for Orphans

To enable Father Adelaide Christmas to supplement his annual gifts to orphans, members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade will give a demonstration on Wednesday and Thursday week, December 10 and 11. Admission will be 1/ (children half-price). Everybody interested is asked to reserve the date. (An article on this display and the work of Father Adelaide Christmas appears on Page 4).

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 2 December 1930, page 4**

## JOYFUL TIMES FOR ORPHANS



JOYFUL TIMES FOR ORPHANS  
Gifts From Father Adelaide Christmas  
Fire Brigade Men to Give Display

FATHER Adelaide Christmas is fully employed these days preparing a personal gift for every inmate of orphanages and other residential institutions in South Australia where helpless little ones are reared. But there are other joys in store. Members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade have arranged two great demonstrations for Wednesday and Thursday week, December 10 and 11. They hope to raise enough money to enable Father Adelaide Christmas to make community gifts to the orphanages of cricket sets and basket balls, which will give the children much amusement and healthy exercise not only during the festive season, but through the coming year.

UNDER the chairmanship of Brig.-Gen. S. Price Weir (chairman of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department), the Father Adelaide Christmas Committee met at "The News" Office yesterday. Encouraging reports were received of the progress of the work. Personal presents will be of a useful nature so far as practicable, such as articles of clothing, handkerchiefs, brushes, and so on. These will help the institutions which are feeling the pinch of the prevailing hard times. Mr. C. Morgan and Mrs. L. L. Hill (buyers for the committee) reported that they were being met in a helpful spirit by Adelaide business houses. The Commercial Travellers' Association has again placed at the disposal of the committee, free of charge, a large room in Commerce House, where the work of packing and sorting gifts was begun to-day by a committee of women helpers headed by Mrs. Hill.

### NO APPEAL FOR FUNDS

Because of the abnormal economic depression, Father Adelaide Christmas Committee decided not to make an appeal to the public for funds this year, but to cover the institutions with an amount of £240 in hand from last year. Philanthropists of Adelaide who have stood behind Father Adelaide Christmas for the past seven years will appreciate this attitude, and the committee confidently counts upon their support in the future.

Details of 12 personal visits by Father Adelaide Christmas were arranged at the committee meeting. The first will be to the Church of England Boys' Home, Walkerville, next Tuesday afternoon, followed by visits to St. Joseph's Orphanage, Largs, on Wednesday, December 10, and to the Salvation Army Boys' Home, Kent Town, on Saturday, December 13. A full list of

visits will be published shortly. Meanwhile there is much happy anticipation among orphans at the prospective greeting from this Yuletide benefactor.

#### THRILLS FOR PUBLIC

The public is invited to attend the display at Fire Brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, Adelaide, on Wednesday and Thursday nights of next week. Only those who have witnessed previous exhibitions by the firemen or have watched them fighting a large fire can anticipate the thrills that will be produced. The Fire Brigades Board has granted permission for the display, and Mr. J. Dickie (chief officer) is warmly encouraging his men. Besides physical drill, pyramids, and other stunts which are part of the everyday life of the firemen, there will be last-minute "rescues," leaps for life from "burning" buildings, and other spectacular features. The evening will conclude with a general turn-out into the street with all appliances and a display of the working of the huge ladder. Admission will be 1/ (children half-price).

#### **Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Saturday 6 December 1930, page 2**

##### 10/6 A WEEK CUT IN FIREMEN'S WAGES

Board And Mr. Warne, M.P., Agree On New Rates

BEGIN ON JAN. 1

BEGINNING on January 1, all firemen in the metropolitan area will have their wages reduced by 10/6 a week, and the allowance to married men will be cut from 12/6 to 11/3. Agreement on this was reached yesterday, when the president of the Government Workers' Association (Mr. Warne, M.P.) interviewed the chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. E. Frinsdorf), and told him of the men's contention that the reduction of £1/1/ a fortnight for single men, with a reduction of 2/6 a week in the allowance for married men, as proposed by the board, was too drastic. Later Mr. Warne received a letter from the board confirming conditions agreed to at the interviews with the chairman. The conditions are that all permanent and theatre auxiliary firemen receiving a weekly wage will be reduced by 10/6 a week in accordance with the recent reduction in the basic wage; that all other theatre auxiliary firemen will be reduced by 6d, for each duty performed; that the allowance for married men will be reduced from 12/6 to 11/3 a week; and that the new rates will apply from January 1 next.

#### **News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 8 December 1930, page 4**

##### DEMONSTRATIONS BY FIREMEN

Helping Father Adelaide Christmas Fund

##### DISPLAYS ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY NIGHTS.

Thrilling public displays will be given at the fire brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, Adelaide, beginning at 8 o'clock on Wednesday and Thursday nights, to raise money for the Father Adelaide Christmas Fund. Electric bells and strident siren will sound an alarm at 10 o'clock each night, and four fully manned fire engines will turn out and dash at top speed toward Victoria square. This will be the final item of the grand display.

FIREMEN will turn their glittering red-and-gold vehicles at Victoria square and return to headquarters where they will run up the 95 ft. ladder to show spectators just how quickly they could attack a fire in a high building. Inspired by a desire to do something for orphaned children, the firemen are busily practising their items, which will be repeated on Thursday night. On both evenings there will be a striking gymnastic display. Twenty-four athletic firemen will build human pyramids in 14 different styles. A powerful Dennis pump will be manned. It will shoot a stream of water up as though attacking a fire. But patrons need not fear a ducking; the water will fall back into a well. Then from the 65 ft. high lookout tower firemen will make daring slides for "life." Others will make spectacular leaps from rooftops into a holding sheet below. It will be a night of inspiring entertainment for young and old. Admission is 1/

(children half price). Tickets may be obtained from any fire station in the metropolitan area, or may be purchased at the doors on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Father Adelaide Christmas has not asked the public for funds this year because of the prevailing economic depression. By judicious buying, it was found possible to provide a gift for every inmate of every orphanage and other residential institution out of a balance in hand. The timely help of the firemen will, it is expected, make it possible for the Father Adelaide Christmas Committee to supply community gifts to the orphanages in the shape of cricket sets and basket-balls, which will provide the children with amusement and healthy exercise for months. This is all the more desirable, as the personal gifts will be mainly of a useful nature (articles of clothing, brushes and combs, soap, handkerchiefs, and such like), which will help the institutions in their struggle to continue their good work with the orphans. Everyone is asked to keep Wednesday or Thursday night free to attend the displays, and thus assist Father Adelaide Christmas.



SOME OF THE FIREMEN WHO WILL ASSIST IN DISPLAYS FOR NEEDY CHILDREN THIS WEEK—Left to Right—R. Bristowe, T. Kervin, M. Moore, P. Burn, T. M. Davis, J. McDonald, W. G. Hill, R. Paul, J. Lee, W. Goreham, E. Godfrey, J. Goodfellow, G. Cameron, A. Stiggins, C. Lear, A. McCallum, and C. O'Brien.

***Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Tuesday 9 December 1930, page 3***

#### FIRE IN MARKET

##### Smart Work By Brigade Averts Serious Blaze

Smart work by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade last night averted the destruction of the premises of Messrs. Silbert, Sharpe and Bishop, in the East-End Market. The call was received soon after 8 o'clock. Three motors were called into use, and the blaze was quickly under control. It is probable that only the quick work of the brigade saved the whole of the market from being razed. The total damage last night was the destruction of several cases of fruit.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 10 December 1930, page 1***

#### FIRE BRIGADE DISPLAY

##### Tonight at Wakefield Street

GRAND displays of fire-fighting will be given at the head station, Wakefield street, Adelaide, tonight at 8 o'clock, and tomorrow night. Ad-mission is 1/ (children half-price). Proceeds are for the Father Adelaide Christmas Fund, from which gifts have been supplied each year since 1923 for children in orphanages and other residential institutions. The programme tonight will cover two hours, and will conclude with a realistic turn-out of four fire engines into Wakefield street. (Special Article on Page 10.)

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 10 December 1930, page 10***

FIRE THRILLS  
GRAND DISPLAY TONIGHT

Money for Father Christmas

All the thrills of a great fire with out the damage usually caused by one may be seen by the public at the fire brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, Adelaide, at 8 o'clock tonight for the reasonable charge of 1/ (children half-price, 6d.). The grand display, which will be repeated tomorrow night, is being given by the generous firemen to assist the Father Adelaide Christmas Fund. In the spacious yard and on the balconies from 600 to 700 spectators can be comfortably accommodated. From a deep well in another portion of the enclosure the firemen will force a stream of water with the powerful Dennis pump up in the air beside the 65-ft high watch-tower (which will represent a burning building). Other firemen aloft will slide "for life" down ropes to the ground. Another item will be daring leaps from an adjoining "burning" building into sheets below. Then three dozen athletic looking firemen will build human pyramids and give an exhibition of drill and exercises. This section in itself will be worth the price of admission.

95-FT. LADDER

When the two-hour show is over alarm bells will ring all over the station, and the firemen will rush for their equipment, leap aboard four great engines, and turn out into Wakefield street for a final display with the great 95-ft. ladder. Tickets were generously given free of charge by E. J. McAlister & Co. printers,



ALL FOR CHARITY

Firemen will go through the hazardous tasks of a real fire at their demonstration at Wakefield street headquarters tonight and tomorrow night to help the Father Adelaide Christmas Fund.  
Fireman P. Byrne on the slide rescue line.

of Bank street, Adelaide. They were distributed to all metropolitan fire stations, and have been selling freely during the past few days. Tickets will also be obtainable at the doors in Wakefield street tonight and tomorrow night. The Father Adelaide Christmas Committee

thought it prudent not to make an appeal to the public for funds this year because of the many calls for charity during the 12 months.

#### USEFUL PRESENTS

An amount in hand from last year has been so judiciously expended by Mrs. L. L. Hill and Mr C. Morgan (buyers for the committee) that every child in every residential institution will receive a personal gift. The presents will be mainly of a useful nature, which will assist the struggling orphanages. Money raised by the fire brigade displays will, it is hoped, enable the committee to supplement these articles by community gifts to the institutions of, say, cricket sets and basket balls, which will provide the little folk with healthy amusement, not only through the festive season, but for months to come. Everyone is urged to help a good cause and enjoy an evening of fun by attending the fire brigade displays tonight and to-morrow night.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 11 December 1930, page 14***

#### FIRE BRIGADE WONDERS

Immense Crowd Thrilled by Displays

#### PERFORMANCE TO BE REPEATED TONIGHT

Accommodation at the Fire Brigade Station, Wakefield street, was taxed to the utmost last night to contain the enthusiastic spectators who cheered the wonderful display given by firemen for the Father Adelaide Christmas Fund. Scores were turned away, with the advice to come early tonight, when the spectacular performance will be repeated. "The great success of the entertainment is a wonderful tribute to the popularity of the firemen and the publicity given by 'The News,'" said Brig.-Gen. S. Price Weir (chairman of the Father Adelaide Christmas Committee) in thanking all who helped toward the success of the great effort.

PROMPTLY at 8 o'clock tonight the fire fighting thrills will be repeated. Admission is 1/ (children half-price). Intending patrons are advised to be early. Pyramids and "set pieces" opened the show last night. "These are designed to promote physical development and to give the firemen confidence in supporting their comrades in the arduous work of quelling a serious fire," said Station Officer A. Griffen, who was master of ceremonies. Two great pyramids of three tiers each (22 men in all) deserve special mention. Then 25 firemen formed one great pyramid—an unusual number in athletic displays. The applause of the audience showed its appreciation. Leapfrog over a vaulting horse brought gasps of admiration from the spectators. That items alone was worth going to see and to be appreciated it must be seen. Firemen Grey and Patton gave a thrilling wrestling exhibition. Three friendly rounds with the gloves between Firemen Savage and Lear won deserved applause.

#### LADDER AND ROPE DRILL

A special feature was clog dancing to mouth-organ music performed by Fireman W. Goreham, as an illustration of how firemen spend some of their leisure time. This item was encored, and the second dance was heartily applauded. Then a 65-ft. ladder was run up in the yard and illuminated by a spotlight, fire-men raced to the top, carried down "insensible" comrades, and performed other thrilling feats. Mounting the watchtower, firemen slid down ropes, holding with one hand with a hook suspended from their belts fastened round the rope. This was done rapidly, and with slow motion, both ways bringing unstinted applause.

With clanging bell a glittering engine then drew into the yard. Huge pipes were lowered into a well, and firemen raced up the tower with hoses. At a sharp whistle of command the Dennis pump of the engine started to work, the hoses twitched and swelled, and water gushed from the nozzles with all the glamor of a real fire attack. Small boys gaped open-mouthed, and burst into wild cheering, and their elders craned forward with genuine interest.

#### BRIGADE TURNS OUT

After Birg.-Gen. Price Weir had thanked the audience for its patronage, and Mr. J. E. Dickie (Chief Officer), his officers, and men for the thrilling demonstrations given, the audience poured into Wakefield street to see a real "turn-out." The siren boomed from the station roof-top, and with clanging bells four great red-and-gold engines raced into Wakefield street, down to Victoria square and back. Then the huge ladder was run up, and a fireman mounted to its dizzy height, a spot light revealing him against the starry sky. Cheers broke out afresh, as at a whistle he began to descend. The engines were moved back into the station, and small boys dragged their parents and friends in to have a last few minutes patting the equipment, and eagerly questioning the ever-courteous fire-men who willingly answered questions.

The largest attendance ever seen at a fire brigade demonstration voted it a wonderful night.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 12 December 1930, page 20**

#### FIRE IN CITY

Damage, estimated at £180, was done by fire at the mill of Messrs. R. B. Day & Sons, upholsterers and bed-ding manufacturers, in Field-street, off Gouger-street, City, shortly after 2 p.m. on Thursday. After lunch workmen entered the mill. One of them started a machine used as a blower. Immediately it was switched on flames came out in the direction of the workroom. Horse hair, wool, and kapoc, which were laying in bundles in the mill, ignited simultaneously. Water was thrown on the burning goods, and the fire brigade was notified. The firemen quickly extinguished the blaze. Several bales of wool and kapoc, which had only been delivered to the premises the same day, were partly destroyed. Many other bales of the same material in the front part of the premises were undamaged.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 15 December 1930, page 10**

#### FLINDERS-STREET FIRE

A fire which broke out on Saturday afternoon at the Flinders-street premises of Messrs. R. E. Hirman & Son (U.S.L. Battery Service, Ltd.) caused slight damage to stock and fittings. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade had the outbreak under control within a few minutes.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 15 December 1930, page 5**

#### LABOR NEWS

##### FIREMEN'S WAGES

A meeting of members of the Fire Brigade section of the Government Workers' Union was held yesterday morning at the Fire Brigade Station, Wakefield-street, to finalise matters relating to the new log of wages submitted by the Fire Brigades' Board, which was accepted recently. The secretary (Mr. F. K. Nieass, M.P.), who visited the eastern States to enquire into wages and conditions of firemen there, presented a report. The decision to accept the wages offered was endorsed.

**Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Thursday 18 December 1930, page 20**

#### AN UNGRATEFUL CAT

The work carried out by the officials of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is very often arduous, generally sad, sometimes very worrying, but it has one saving virtue — it is never dull. The cases and the people dealt with are very different, and there is always something to cause one to think.

##### Leap for Life

Animals are not always grateful for the efforts made on their behalf, as was shown by the behaviour of a cat, which was stranded on a ledge at a factory in Sturt-street. It was 60 ft. from the ground, and onlookers said it had been there for three days. The inspector racked

his brains as to how it could be rescued, and finally enlisted the aid of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, who sent along a fire ladder. Whilst this was being erected the animal decided not to wait any longer and jumped. She was apparently not injured and ran away, and all efforts to find her failed.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 29 December 1930, page 5**

**MOST SPECTACULAR CITY FIRE FOR YEARS**

**FLAVEL & SONS' WHOLESALE PREMISES GUTTED**

**FLAMES AND SMOKE SEEN MANY MILES AWAY**

**FIREMEN HAVE DIFFICULT TASK BUT PREVENT OUTBREAK FROM SPREADING**

**Explosion of Ammunition Causes Consternation Among Crowd**

Not for years has Adelaide witnessed such a spectacular fire as that which occurred on Sunday evening. A large crowd was attracted to the east end of Rundle-street by a red glow caused by huge volumes of smoke and flame, which ascended high into the air. The scene of the outbreak was Messrs. Flavel & Sons' wholesale store in Bent-street.

Firemen had a difficult task owing to the fact that the building was of wood and iron, and that the contents were highly inflammable. That part of the premises was destroyed. The explosion of a large quantity of ammunition made the work of the firemen particularly hazardous, but they managed to quell the blaze before much damage had been done to adjoining premises.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received several calls about 10.20, and Chief Superintendent J. E. Dickie sent out all the available appliances from headquarters, and reinforcements from the North Adelaide, Norwood, and Unley brigades. Hoses were turned on from Rundle and Grenfell streets, and the firemen attacked the flames from as many vantage points as possible. The fire then had a good hold of the hardware, china, and tarpaulin departments of the firm. The spectacular nature of the outbreak attracted thousands of spectators from various parts of the city and suburbs. There was a remarkable congregation of motor vehicles in the city within a few minutes. As the result of hoses being used from Grenfell-street there was an interruption in the tram traffic along that thoroughfare. The police prevented the people from entering Bent-street, which thus gave the firemen full scope to exert their utmost energy in fighting the flames and preventing them from spreading to other buildings.

**TERRIFIC HEAT**

**Hoses Played on Firemen**

The heat was so intense in Bent-street, immediately between Flavel's and the bulk store of Malcolm Reid & Co., Limited, that firemen in less dangerous positions had to play hoses on their comrades in that zone to prevent their clothing from catching alight. Malcolm Reid's building was at the point of ignition for a considerable time, but a continuous flow of water at last rendered it safe, although some damage was done to portion of the roof by the fire, and to furniture in the store. A source of danger to the firemen was the electric light wires in Bent-street, which ultimately fused, with the result that the many places in the vicinity were thrown into darkness.

**COLLAPSE OF THE STRUCTURE**

Included in the stock was a large quantity of ammunition. As the fire progressed the cartridges exploded, and the reports were like a number of machine guns in action. Fortunately none of the bullets found a target. The tremendous heat generated by the inflammable goods soon made portions of the iron sides of the building red hot, and water poured on to it by the firemen hissed off in the form of steam until the fire obtained the upper hand and the structure collapsed.

#### OTHER BUILDINGS CONCERNED

East of Flavel's are Mr. D. Parry's Tavistock stables, and from them some horses were rescued before the danger from the fire had extended in that direction. At the rear of Malcolm Reid's is the plate glass and mirror factory of Clarkson, Ltd. Had the flames got a hold of Malcolm Reid's premises they would probably have ignited Clarkson's as well. A number of the buildings in the immediate vicinity are of wood and iron, and the fact that the flames were prevented from spreading under the circumstances, reflects particular credit on the firemen.

#### LOSS AND INSURANCE

Mr. E. J. Flavel, of Fullarton Estate, a director, and manager of the hiring department, stated after the fire that he was not in a position to give any estimate of the insurances or the loss. All he could say was that he knew that portion of the stock and buildings was covered by insurance, but he could not say to what extent. Mr. H. J. Flavel, the managing director of the firm, is on a camping expedition at Corney Point, Yorke Peninsula. The governing director of the firm is Mr. John Flavel, of Henley Beach. The fire, particularly in the hiring department will cause the firm considerable trouble in view of the holiday season. Arrangements are being made, however, by the directors to fill all orders possible. Mr. E. J. Flavel stated this morning that a number of workers would be thrown out of employment for the time being, and he was not in a position to say at the moment what action the firm would take, regarding the matter of rebuilding.

#### TROOPERS MOVE CROWD

Mr. A. G. Bond, of Bond's Motor Services, heard of the fire when he was at Hawthorn, and he motored to his works, which are a few doors away from where the fire occurred, and took his motors and other valuable articles out on to the road. Mounted troopers rode on to the foot paths after the fire had died down and drove the people back. It was about half an hour before they had dispersed the crowd. At 11 o'clock, less than an hour after the fire had started, the danger of its spreading was over. Had it not been for the efficient work of the fire brigade the conflagration might easily have spread through a block bounded by Pulteney, Grenfell, and Rundle streets and East-terrace. The police were under the direction of Inspector Hannon, and they, like the firemen, are deserving of the utmost credit for the gallantry they displayed.

***News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 29 December 1930, page 6***

#### SUBURBAN FIRES

##### Garage and Shed Burned

A wood-and-iron garage was completely destroyed and a sedan motor car extensively damaged by fire this afternoon at the home of Mr. C. R. Bowker, Grand View grove, Toorak Gardens. No estimate can be formed of the damage. Norwood Fire Brigade was in attendance, and had the outbreak under control within a few minutes.

At the home of Mr. E. T. Pascoe, Victoria avenue, Rose Park, this afternoon, a shed and contents were burned. The shed was insured. The cause of the fire is unknown. Metropolitan Fire Brigade attended. No estimate of the damage has yet been made.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 29 December 1930, page 6***

#### GRASS FIRES.

Two grass fires occurred at the west park lands, between Grote-street and port-road, during the week-end. A large quantity of dried grass was destroyed on Saturday afternoon, and early yesterday morning there was another outbreak. The Fire Brigade attended on each occasion and prevented any serious damage.

***Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Tuesday 30 December 1930, page 3***

## FLAVEL'S BLAZE

### Damages Not Estimated But Will Amount To Thousands

Damage caused to the warehouse of Flavel and Sons, Ltd., in Bent street, by the fire on Sunday night has not yet been estimated. Mr. H. J. Flavel, managing director, who was on holidays at Corney Point, Yorke Peninsula, returned to the city last night. He said that he was not yet able to estimate the extent of the damage but it would be many thousands of pounds. Firemen worked throughout Sunday night to save adjoining premises. About 5,000 feet of hose was used on the blaze. One line was run from North terrace, through Tavistock street and across Rundle street. Owners of nearby premises were full of praise yesterday for the work of the brigades and the police.

**Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Tuesday 30 December 1930, page 3**

### Fire In Charles Street

Portion of the premises occupied by Thompson Bros., French polishers, and George Holman, antique dealer, in Charles street, city, was badly damaged by fire about 9.50 p.m. yesterday. When the brigade arrived the building was burning fiercely, but the firemen soon had the blaze under control. The contents were slightly damaged by fire and water.

**News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 31 December 1930, page 8**

## ADELAIDE FIRE

### Assessing Damage

Owing to the wide variety of stock contained in the premises destroyed by fire on Sunday night, Mr. H. J. Flavel (managing director of Flavel & Sons, Limited) stated today that he did not think an estimate of the damage could be obtained within 15 days. Arrangements have been made to start the canvas goods manufacturing department on Friday. All members of the staff will be re-employed. The goods will be manufactured in the Rundle street premises. Stocks are being drawn from the bulk store at Kent Town. Wholesale hardware and crockery business has been affected most. Mr. Flavel stated that no definite plan for resumption of this portion of the business had been made. He expressed gratitude to all business people for assistance to the firm, particularly E. Thorpe & Sons and W. H. Bishop & Sons.