

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade



Hindmarsh Fire Station 2023 Google Maps

Hindmarsh - karraundo-ngga

The first private town laid out in the colony on land owned by Governor Hindmarsh; in 1838, it was sold to a company, the members of which appear to have been related to the Governor who, it seems, acquired a dubious reputation by prohibiting squatting in the Park Lands, thus forcing people to acquire land in the subdivision.

1856

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 8 November 1856, page 4

HINDMARSH.

Monday, November 3.

Messrs. Duncan and Stone, a deputation from the occupants and freeholders of land in the district of Hindmarsh, contiguous to the line of the City and Port Railway, waited on the Council to complain of the nuisance and danger arising from the continual fires caused to the sparks from the funnel and below the steam-engine falling, as it proceeds up and down the line, among the dry grass and crops of wheats barley, and oats—eleven fires having already taken place within the district of Hindmarsh, attributable solely to this cause. The deputation urged the importance and necessity of the Council remonstrating with the Board of Undertakers, soliciting them to take precautionary measures in time.

The Clerk reported that Mr. J. B. Hughes had also called at the office that morning, requesting him to bring the subject before the Council, and suggesting they should recommend to the Railway Board the desirableness of using horse traction only during the summer months. The Clerk further stated he had been an eye-witness of two fires in one day on Croydon Section.

Resolved, that a communication be forwarded to the Railway Board, embodying the grievances complained of and the remedy suggested.

1859

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 31 December 1859, page 8

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

HINDMARSH. December 27.

Present—J. Pickering (Chairman), W. Langman, and James Copley.

Mr. Nitschke's offer of a fire-engine was declined.

1860

18th November 1860 – Fire at house of Mr. Bassett, Gibson Street, Bowden.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Tuesday 20 November 1860, page 3

FIRE AT BOWDEN.—About three o'clock on Sunday morning, November 18th, a fire took place at the house of Mr. Bassett, butcher and storekeeper, Gibson-street, Bowden, which totally destroyed one house, stored full of hay, and, when first discovered, threatened to devastate the whole street; but fortunately, when first seen, the alarm was given, and aroused the whole of that part of the township. Almost every man turned out, and there being luckily a plentiful supply of water at hand, to second the exertions of the people, the flames were subdued without doing any further injury. The fire is supposed to have resulted from the hand of an incendiary.

1869

7th March 1869 – Fire at premises of Mr. Carthoy, Hindmarsh.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 9 March 1869, page 2

Latest News

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.—At about 12 o'clock on Sunday night a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Carthoys. storekeeper, Hindmarsh. The building and stock were totally destroyed. We believe the stock was insured for £400 in the South Australian Insurance Company, and an inquest will probably be held.

THE HINDMARSH FIRE.—An inquest was held on Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock, by Dr. Forster, on the fire which destroyed the stock of Mr. Carthoys, insured with the South Australian Insurance Company for £400. After a lengthened investigation, lasting till past 11, the following verdict was returned—" The Jury believe that the property was wilfully set on fire, but they consider there is not sufficient evidence to fix the guilt on any individual, but that great blame is attachable to Mr. Carthoys for leaving his property in so unprotected a state.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 11 March 1869, page 2

THE LATE FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Having heard that a report was circulated that Mr. Lees (one of the proprietors of the Hindmarsh Mills), when aroused on the night of the fire, manifested indifference, and soon returned to his bed. I with many others could easily prove this to be untrue. I was early at the fire, and I there found that the engine under Mr. Lees was doing good service, such as very soon to subdue the fire. Although the roofs of the houses were old, dry as tinder, and joined together, yet the fire was confined to the one. This being the case, I know I shall be speaking the minds of those interested in stopping the progress of the fire by stating that

although considerable praise is due to those who did their best, yet the promptness and energy displayed by Mr. Lees in bringing the engine to bear upon the fire deserves our highest praise.

I am, Sir. &c., JOHN PICKERING. Brompton, March 10,1869.

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 13 March 1869, page 4

The Hindmarsh Fire.—An inquest was held on Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock, by Dr. Forster, on the fire which destroyed the stock of Mr. Carthoys, insured with the South Australian Insurance Company for £400. After a lengthened investigation, lasting till past 11, the following verdict was returned—"The Jury believe that the property was wilfully set on fire, but they consider there is not sufficient evidence to fix the guilt on any individual, but that great blame is attachable to Mr. Carthoys for leaving his property in so unprotected a state. The Jury was one of more than average intelligence, and patiently sat nearly seven hours listening to the evidence produced by a large number of witnesses, who, however, failed to point decidedly to the guilty person. It appeared from the evidence that the stock, which was insured for £400 with the South Australian Insurance Company, had been stored in a very indifferent kind of building, unfit for goods of the value represented; that the premises were quite unprotected; no one slept there, as the back door was insecure and unfastened, the lock being useless, so that there was nothing to hinder the entrance of any one so disposed. Mr. Schaeffer attended on behalf of the South Australian Insurance Company to watch the proceeding, which closed with the verdict given above.

15th November 1869 – Fire at Doran's store, Port Road, Hindmarsh.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 16 November 1869, page 2

FIRE.—At 2 a.m. on Monday morning a fire broke out on the premises adjoining the Commercial Inn, Hindmarsh, known as Doran's store. It was first discovered by Mrs. Doran, who with her family occupied the room over the shop as a bedroom. She awoke almost suffocated, and guessing the cause sought the safety of herself and children. She got out with great difficulty and gave an alarm, and plenty of water being procurable from a horse-trough at the Commercial the fire was soon got under. Messrs. Cornish, jun., Cook, Rains, and others, used great exertions to stop the further progress of the flames, which they succeeded in doing before they reached the adjoining premises. We believe an enquiry will be made to ascertain the origin of the fire. The stock and premises are insured in the Equitable.

1871

Saturday 10th June 1871 – Fire at Brewery of Messrs. Haussen & Catchlove, Hindmarsh.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Monday 12 June 1871, page 2

TOPICS OF THE DAY

Before daylight on Saturday morning, the malt-house connected with the brewery of Messrs. Haussen & Catchlove, at Hindmarsh, was discovered to be on fire. Mr. Catchlove, and others connected with the Brewery, were at once on the ground, and also a large number of neighbors. Sergeant-Major Saunders, with a detachment of mounted police, was soon on the spot, and about 5 o'clock Mr. A. J. Paker (Superintendent of Fire Brigades), and Mr. J. T. Turnbull (Insurance Companies' Agent and Valuator), also arrived, but the flames had then been pretty well brought under subjection. The kiln, in which a considerable

quantity of malt was drying, was destroyed, as was also the malt. An iron door, judiciously placed by the architects, Messrs. English & Reeves, between the kiln and the store in which the malt, hops, &c, were kept, fortunately prevented the flames spreading ultimately to the main buildings, although some damage was done to the contents of the store by water. The buildings, stock, and plant are insured in the Equitable Insurance Office for £7,000. The damage is estimated at between £400 and £500. Special credit is due to Mr. Jas. King and Mr. Wm. Taylor for organising and directing the efforts of the neighbors and others who had assembled. An inquest will be held at the Black Lion Hotel, Hindmarsh, to-day, at 1 o'clock.



State Library of South Australia - Haussen Brewery, Hindmarsh [PRG 631/2/346-347], Views of the Haussen Brewery in Hindmarsh. 1911. Photographer Gall, Ernest. Part of Hindmarsh Collection

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 13 June 1871, page 3

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

The Rev. S. L. Harris, J.P., held an inquest at the Black Lion Inn, Hindmarsh, on Monday afternoon, June 12, on the fire which occurred at the Brewery of Messrs. Haussen & Catchlove on the previous Saturday morning. The Jury having been sworn, and Mr. J. C. Reid elected foreman, they proceeded to view the scene of the conflagration— the malthouse, which has not been very long erected. The Hon. Thomas English, as one of the architects, attended to furnish any information the Jury might desire respecting the construction of the building, and Messrs. F. G. Botting and A. Abrahams were present to watch the proceedings in the interests of the Equitable Insurance Company, with which the property was insured. The Jury having returned to the Inn, the following evidence was taken :—Joseph Hughes, of Hindmarsh, baker, said between a quarter and half-past 3 o'clock on Saturday morning, having occasion to get up, he saw what he thought to be a candle moving about in his own yard, which was about 20 yards from the brewery. On going down stairs saw flames coming out; of the roof of the malt-house, they appeared to be just bursting through. Immediately gave the alarm to a person sleeping in his house, and after-wards they both ran over to the wall of the brewery. Could neither hear nor see any one about. They called "fire," and two or three minutes having elapsed, two of the men at work on the brewery—Reid and Gibbons—

came out from somewhere—he could not say where from. Went on to the premises and assisted to get some malt out of the malthouse. Was so engaged for about an hour. Afterwards called Mr. Parsons, one of the brewery hands. Could give no opinion as to the origin of the fire. By the Jury—Before he left the premises a number of people had assembled. Heard Mr. Dench's bell ring, but could not say how long that was after he first observed the fire. By Mr. Abrahams—Could not state the precise part of the roof where he first saw the flames.

James Rowe, of Hindmarsh, baker, said between a quarter-past 3 and half-past 3 o'clock on Saturday morning he was called by the last witness, who said—"Get up, Jim, the brewery's on fire." Got up, and they both went to the brewery wall, over which he jumped. Saw two men—Gibbons and Reid. The former opened the door of the malt store, and the work of throwing the malt out of the store into the yard was commenced. Was so engaged for about half an hour. The whole of the upper portion of the malthouse seemed to be on fire. David Gibbons, of Hindmarsh, laborer, in the Employment of Messrs. Haussen & Catchlove, said, between 3 and half-past 3 o'clock on Saturday morning he was called by the nightman, Mark Last, who said—"Get up ; some of the malt has taken fire." Dressed at once, and on going outside saw flames issuing from the roof of the kiln in all directions. Did all he could to prevent the fire spreading, and to save as much as possible of the stock. By the Jury—"Was at present employed in the malthouse, but he had nothing whatever to do with the kiln. There were two maltsters who attended to the whole of the malting department. Their names were Edwin Ottaway and William Reid. By Mr. Abrahams —Was on the premises the whole of the night. Left the malthouse at 10 minutes past 7 o'clock on Friday evening.

Mark Last, of Hindmarsh, laborer, said he was in the brewery on the morning of the fire. The establishment at night was left in his charge. Had various duties to perform, including keeping up the fire under the malt kiln. About half-past 3 o'clock on Saturday morning noticed the smell of something burning. Went to the kiln and saw that the malt on the floor was burning. At once went and told the men sleeping on the premises what was wrong, and they quickly got up. The fire appeared to him to commence at the sides of the kiln. If there had been fire in the centre he thought he should have seen it. Had been nightman on the premises for about three years. Had never known malt catch fire before. The malt on the floor was green, having been put on on Friday afternoon. The furnace and the flues, as far as he could judge, worked well. By the Jury— Fed the furnace about 1 o'clock, when he noticed no indication of fire. As far as he knew, he was the only person moving about on the premises. They regulated the draught according to the heat required. Edwin Ottaway, of Hindmarsh, maltster, in the employment of Messrs. Haussen & Catch-love, said he had for a number of years been employed in the Hindmarsh Brewery. On last Friday afternoon, with the other maltster, William Reid, loaded the kiln, and Reid lit the fire. This was done between 4 and 5 o'clock. They were occupied on the floor beneath the kiln till 7 o'clock, and half-an-hour afterwards, there was a nice steady fire burning. Having told the nightman to replenish the fire in about two hours, went home. Was called by the nightman on Saturday morning between 3 and 4 o'clock. He said, "There's something wrong with the kiln." Went as soon as possible to the brewery. The first he saw of the fire was the flames coming through the window. Could tell there was fire all round. On entering the building saw there was no chance of saving the kiln. Rendered all the assistance he could to save the stock and subdue the flame's. Had been a maltster for upwards of 30 years. Had never had previously an accident with fire. The kiln was a capital one for drying, and he had full confidence in it. The

flues required attention according to the direction of the wind. By the Jury—Had confidence in last attending properly to the fire. The kiln was cleaned out last Saturday week. By Mr. Abrahams—Loaded the kiln with about 120 bushels of barley. When spread out the barley was about seven inches deep. By the Jury—If the wind suddenly chopped round so as to come in at the door, in an hour the kiln might be red-hot. Left the fire sometimes two hours when in charge himself. When he saw the place on fire formed no opinion as to its origin. The wind often shifted several times during the night.

William Reid, of Hindmarsh, maltster, assistant to the last witness, gave evidence which was corroborative of that given by Ottaway and Gibbons.

The Coroner then summed up, referring to the various portions of the evidence, and expressing himself of opinion that there was nothing pointing to the conclusion that the destruction of the kiln was the result of the act of an incendiary.

The Jury, after a short deliberation, returned the following verdict:—"That the fire was accidental, and not otherwise, and occasioned by the flues of the kiln being overheated, whereby, the malt on the floor became ignited."

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 16 June 1871, page 2

GENERAL NEWS

The Equitable Insurance Company have paid Messrs. Haussen & Catchlove for damage done to stock and building by the fire which occurred at the Hindmarsh Brewery on the morning of the 10th instant.

1873

Saturday 18th October - Fire at Mr. Brennan's shed in the Hindmarsh neighbourhood.

A large fire, South of the Torrens in the Hindmarsh neighbourhood caused the destruction of a building and contents, and highlighted the lack of fire fighting facilities and equipment at that time. It appears that reticulated water was then installed in the Hindmarsh Council district, and the thoughts of a fire brigade are raised. A reel is already provided at the railway station.

South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1868 - 1881), Saturday 25 October 1873, page 5

THE FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

Dr. Foster, J.P., held an inquest at the Commercial Hotel, Hindmarsh, relative to the fire which destroyed a wooden-shed and contents the property of Mr. P. J. Brennan. Mr. A. Abrahams, Secretary to the Permanent Equitable Fire Insurance Company, attended to watch the proceedings. Mr. Jas. King was chosen Foreman of the Jury. Stephen Wm. McGargal, laborer, deposed, that about twenty minutes to 12 o'clock he was in company with two young men on the opposite side of the river to which the shed stood, when he saw flames in it. He gave an alarm of fire, and then went to Mr. Brennan's house and aroused him. He at once came out, and on proceeding to the shed they found it in one body of flames. He saw no one about the shed when he first noticed the fire. Several persons were at the building when he and Brennan got there. The building was burned to the ground by half-past 12 o'clock. There were several explosions of stuff, like the crack of a whip or a report of a pistol. He thought they were from chemicals. Had water been accessible the fire-reels from town might saved some of the property. The walls had not given way where the

bales were lying. Nothing could be saved by manual labor after the flames got a thorough hold of the building. Thomas Ladd, skinner, gave similar evidence. and stated that some "fools called firemen," from town, showed no energy or determination to put the fire out, but looked on. The bales of hair might have been saved, if exertions had been used by them. He did not know whether the firemen were aware that they could have waded across the river. John Coulthard, carpenter, stated that he saw the shed on fire and at once ran to it from where he lived (the Commercial Hotel). The door was closed, and the whole of the inside was on fire. He knocked some of the palings off to open a window, but the fire burst out and prevented him doing so. He also complained of the conduct of the firemen in not exerting themselves to a greater extent in their endeavor to save property. Wm. Thelburn, aged 10 years, said he worked for Mr. Brennan. The shed was locked up at 5 o'clock on Saturday, and he and Mr. Brennan left— everything apparently being safe. Peter Joseph Brennan skindresser and dyer, said at 5 o'clock, or thereabouts, on Saturday he locked the shed up. It was then all right. There were 13 bales of washed hair packed in wool bales, weighing, each about 2½ cwt., and between 600 and 700 washed and cured sheepskins, the greater portion of which were dyed into mats. There were also a wool press and a machine for dressing wool. He used chemicals, but had never had any explosion. One jar of the chemicals exploded at the fire. Kept no lucifers in the store, but before he left his little boy spilled some Tandstickors out of a box. He (witness) felt certain he picked them all up. The floor was composed of strong wooden battens, about an eighth of an inch apart. The shed leaked, and sometimes when dry weather followed the rains, the bales got warm, and he then shifted them for safety. He did so about a fortnight previous. He could assign no cause for the fire, and knew nothing of the fire till he was aroused at night by the witness McGargall. He was partly insured, but his books and every thing were consumed. So far as he could judge without his books, he estimated his loss at be-between £150 and £200 beyond the insurance. By the Jury— Some of the hair had been stacked without removal for eight or nine months. His opinion was that if the Fire Brigade had used any exertion at all they could have saved some of the bales, which were untouched by the fire when they arrived. The reason the firemen gave for not using the hose was, that it was not long enough; that the force of water was not sufficient to do any good, and that the fire could not injure other property. The water in the river was not more than two feet deep, and the fireman could have crossed. By P.G. Thomas —He left the matches in the store on a table or in a drawer after he had picked them up. P.C. Thomas contradicted, the lad Thelburn in his statement that he left the shed, with Brennan, as, according to his statement, when he questioned him on Sunday night, he went away about 10 minutes before Mr. Brennan. The Coroner, in summing up, said the origin of the fire was a mystery. He thought there was nothing in the evidence to show any intention to set the place on fire, and he expressed his belief that the fire resulted from the ignition of the bales, the explosion of chemicals, or from some lucifers igniting. The Jury, after deliberation, returned a verdict that the fire was accidental. They added a rider — "That the Jury are of opinion that had the Fire Brigade been sufficiently provided with hose, and exerted themselves, that the evidence shows that some of the property might have been saved."

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 25 October 1873, page 5

FIRE ON THE PORT-ROAD.

At half-past 11 o'clock on Saturday night, October 18, a fire-broke out in a long wooden building belonging to Mr. Brennan in the neighbourhood of Hindmarsh. The police of the city

at once sent assistance to the spot, and the Superintendent of Fire Brigades was soon upon the scene with his men and Nos. 1, 2, and 7 reels. It was found, however, that nothing could be done to prevent the destruction of the building, and as the fire could not spread it was left under a guard. The police were informed by Mr. Brennan that in company with Wm. Fulham he had shut up the store at 5 in the afternoon, the place being used for storing wool, sheepskins, plasterers' hair, and some chemicals used in the business of scouring, the nature of which was not disclosed. When he closed up everything was safe. John Collard, a publican, said that he was the first to see the fire issuing from the building. He pushed open the door, and the flames at once burst forth, and in ten minutes the building and what it contained were irrevocably lost. The building was on the south side of the Torrens at the opposite side from the fireplugs. The brigade when they arrived at the fire found that they could do nothing to save the structure. It was about forty feet long by about fifteen wide, and was to some extent insured, but not nearly to the amount of the loss. The Equitable is the Company affected by the insurance.

THE INQUEST.

On Tuesday, Oct. 21, Dr. Forster, J.P., held an inquest at the Commercial Hotel, Hindmarsh, to ascertain the cause of the fire which destroyed a woolshed and its contents, the property of Mr. P. J. Brennan, on October 18. Mr. J. King was Foreman. Stephen William McGargal, of Hindmarsh, labourer, stated that on Saturday at 11.30 p.m. he was on the bank of the Torrens, opposite the building, when he saw a blaze shoot out at the top of the shed. Gave the alarm, and then informed Mr. Brennan, who came at once. Afterwards went to the scene of the conflagration, and found that a portion of the roof had fallen in, and when the flames had abated he noticed some hair burning. Occasional slight explosions were heard while the fire raged, and pieces of a hard substance were blown about. The whole place was consumed in about an hour. If water had been laid on upon the same side of the river the contents of the building might have been partly saved, as the fire-reels arrived before all was burnt. Saw no one near the shed when he first noticed the fire. Believed the flames originated in the middle of the shed. Did not see the door broken open. The walls were partly down when he got there, but the portion against which the bales of hair were placed was standing. None of the bales could have been dragged out owing to the heat. Thomas Ladd, of Hindmarsh, skinner, gave corroborative evidence, remarking that several persons were on the ground, but no attempt was made to extinguish the fire. The greater part of the bales of hair might have been saved, he thought, if the firemen had exerted themselves. The river was shallow enough to have allowed them to wade across with the hose, if that had been sufficiently long. John Coulthard, carpenter, deposed that when he arrived at the fire he knocked some palings in to try and open the shutters, but the flames rushed out, and the inside of the shed appeared to be all on fire. The door fell in about a quarter of an hour after witness got there. After the walls fell saw some smouldering heaps which looked like bales of hair. Mr. Brennan was present, but could do nothing. William Thalburn, a boy, said that he was with Mr. Brennan, his master, at 5 p.m. on Saturday, when he locked the shed. Things were left as usual. The shed contained hair, skins, &c., also a machine, some empty casks, and several jars of chemicals. Everything was left safe. There were no lucifer matches in the shed so far as he knew. P. J. Brennan, skindresser and dyer, deposed that he locked the store at 5 p.m., on October 18, and then all was secure. The shed contained 13 bales of hair, 600 or 700 mats and skins, besides the requisite tools and chemicals. Had never known any of the chemicals to explode. A short time before the shed was locked a little boy had spilt some

tandstickor matches, and as the boards of the floor were wide apart some might have fallen through. Carefully collected all the lucifers he could see and left them on the table. Had a fire in a shed about 40 yards distant, which was slacked with tan so as to keep the water warm. About a fortnight ago found some bales of hair getting hot through the heat of the weather and the rain coming in from the roof and damping them, so immediately removed them. Knew nothing until he was roused at night by McGargal. When he arrived at the fire could not get within 20 feet of the shed. Estimated his loss at about £150 or £200 beyond what was covered by insurance. Some bales of hair had lain there for nine months. Hair would not catch fire however hot it might be. The Fire Brigade could have saved eight bales if they had tried, as they were in a corner where the fire had not reached when the reels arrived. The reason they gave for not using the reel-hose was that it was not long enough, that the force of the water was insufficient, and that there was no other building near. The Coroner remarked that the evidence did not show that any person was present at the time the fire broke out. He thought the matches might have caused spirit to explode if they came in contact with it. The hair might have created fire, but that was not probable. After half an hour's retirement, the Jury returned the verdict—" That the fire was accidental," adding a rider to the effect "that they considered that had the Fire Brigade been sufficiently provided with hose, and had they exerted themselves, the evidence showed that some property might have been saved."

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 25 October 1873, page 5

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Will you kindly allow me space to reply to the evidence and the rider given at the inquest on the late fire at Hindmarsh. The fire was first seen at 11.30 p.m. I was called at 12. One man states that he was first at the fire and could not get nearer than 20 feet; the whole building was consumed in half an hour. Another says the firemen were a set of fools, and had they exerted themselves could have saved a few bales of hair. Why did he not do it? No. 1 Reel was the first to arrive, and the Foreman went to the north side of the river and opened a fireplug, but the hose there is 240 feet on each of the reels, but the hose of one reel was not of sufficient length to reach across the river until No. 2 Reel came. I was present when No. 2 Reel and the firemen from No. 7 Reel arrived, and forbade them using the hose, as the whole building and its contents were then destroyed. It is my duty to prevent needless expense at fires, and I am confident no amount of water or exertion from the firemen could have saved any property. The bales of hair were all ablaze and useless when I arrived. I had one rolled off with a long pole and it fell to pieces, and none of them would bear moving. Much water and labour might have been wasted, but would not have saved any property, but would have added to the Fire Insurance Company's loss. I consider the firemen have been calumniated, and that the rider was quite uncalled for and contrary to fact. The firemen turning out at midnight and going several miles off their prescribed limit, knowing that if they left the city they could not claim any pay, is sufficient proof of their willingness to exert themselves had there been any occasion for it.

I am, Sir, &c., ARTHUR JNO. BAKER, Superintendent.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 27 October 1873, page 3

THE OPEN COLUMN.

No letter attended to unless verified by the name and address of the writer. No manuscripts returned. Correspondents must be prepared in all cases to take the legal consequences (if any) resulting from the publication of their letters.

THE LATE FIRE AT HINDMARSH. TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—On reading to-day's papers, I see by some of the witnesses' evidence that the firemen are called fools for not using their exertions to put out the fire. Now, Sir, our Reel, No. 1, arrived first at the fire. We at once went to the fire plug on the north side of the river, but found we had not sufficient hose to reach the fire. When No. 2 Reel arrived there was nothing to be saved, or we should have coupled on to No. 2 Reel, and put out the fire. Seeing we could do no good at the fire plug, we drove to the fire again, and had instructions from our Superintendent to return to our Stations. Therefore, what Mr. T. Ladd says, we treat with contempt. Mr. J. Coulthard, carpenter, complains of the conduct of the firemen for not exerting themselves to a greater extent to save the property which he had very foolishly helped the flames to consume by pulling down palings from the shed, and so allowing a current of air to pass through the shed. In conclusion, I think the rider quite unnecessary.

I am, Sir, &c, ONE OF NO. 1 REEL. Adelaide, October 22.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 14 November 1873, page 3

WATER RATES AT HINDMARSH.

Mr. WHITING said there was one other matter which he wished to suggest. They had now water laid on almost everywhere, and he thought it was time they got a fire-reel. Although the water was laid on, they were now in almost as bad a position in respect to fire as before it was so, as while a reel was coming from town a building—as for instance at Mr. Brennan's fire, recently—would be burnt down. They ought to take some steps to procure a reel, though he did not know whether they should apply to the Government for it or not. He himself thought of speaking to Mr. A. J. Baker on the subject. If they obtained a reel it might be placed in the hands of the police. Mr. W. SHEARING explained that there was a reel kept near the Railway Station since the recent fire. He thought they might take some steps to organize a fire brigade. There were many young fellows who would be glad to join. (Applause.) They might keep the reel at the District Council Office, or at the Police Station.

1879

South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1868 - 1881), Saturday 1 November 1879, page 7

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

The City Coroner (Mr. Thos. Ward, J.P.,) held an inquest at the Hope Inn, Hindmarsh, on Monday, October 27, to ascertain the cause of a fire which occurred on the property of Alfred Curl, at Hindmarsh, on the previous morning. Mr. William Shearing was chosen foreman of the jury. Mr. William Thow appeared on behalf of the railway department.

Alfred Curl, general dealer, Hindmarsh, said—I rent the paddock in which the fire took place from Mr. Hooker, boilermaker, of Hindley-street. Am not insured. Was last in the paddock on Saturday afternoon, when all appeared safe. Never smoke. Was told of the fire on Sunday morning by Mr. Baldwin's little boy, who said that my paddock was on fire. Went

immediately and found about a hundred persons in the paddock. The flames were all out, but some of the haystacks were still smouldering. Have no idea how the fire originated. A cinder was shown to me near the place where I was told the fire began, about ten yards from the railway fence. There were about six and a half tons of hay on the three acres. The hay was worth about £32. George Sansom, plasterer, Hindmarsh, said— I was walking along the Belt-road on Sunday morning. About half a mile from where I was I saw a cloud of what I thought was smoke. Hastened to the spot and found that a fire had been burning, but it had been put out by a number of people who were on the ground. About ten minutes before the fire broke out the 9 a.m. train from Adelaide passed the spot. Just near there the engine gave a puff of smoke. Saw no cinders or burnt wood or coal in the paddock. Do not know whether there were any smoking carriages attached to the train. William Trew gave corroborative evidence. John Filsell, engine-driver on the Port rail-way line, said — I was driving the engine of the 9 a.m. train from town yesterday morning. Was burning coke and coal in the engine. Half a hundredweight of wood was used to light up at half past 6. There is a brick arch in the fire-box and a sparkcatcher in the funnel to prevent sparks from flying. Am certain that the piece of charcoal produced could not come through the sparkcatcher. The damper of the ashbox was open at the first notch, or about four inches. Do not think that a piece of cinder would travel further than the railway fence. By a juror — The puff of smoke which had been mentioned might have been occasioned by the stoker putting on more coals. By Mr. Thow— Putting on the coals would not make the sparks fly from the engine. There were three smoking carriages in the train. Henry Dunn, corporal of police, stationed at Hindmarsh, said— I was told of the fire about 11 o'clock in the forenoon. Immediately went to the place and found that Mr. Curl's hay paddock had been burnt. The general opinion was that a spark from the engine of the train had set it alight. Mr. Curl showed me the piece of charcoal produced. Have made enquiries, but could get no further information. Did not hear of anyone sleeping in the paddocks. The jury after a retirement of about half an hour gave the following verdict:—"That the fire was caused by a hot cinder from the ash-box being blown into the stubble, as the line is so much higher than the fields lying around it at that part."

1883

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 3 April 1883, page 3

THE EXPLOSION AT THE BROMPTON GASWORKS.

The explosion which took place at the Brompton Gasworks last week seems to have excited a good deal of alarm among the residents. Possibly some may, under the influence of the fear created, have exaggerated the occurrence. As, however, the fire was seen from parts of the city, and the explosion was also heard in the western part of the municipality, there is no doubt that the report of the affair which was given by the Manager erred as much in the one direction of insufficiently estimating the danger as the statements of others erred in the direction of over-estimating it. As to the additional expense which the accident will impose upon the Company, that is, of course, a matter which concerns them, and with it the general public have nothing to do. But there is an aspect of the question which is of more general importance. If a gasometer which is intended to contain several hundred thousand cubic feet of gas is unable to bear the strain of only a few feet, is it unreasonable to infer that there is something radically wrong in the construction of the receptacle? The question is very naturally asked, What guarantee is there that there will not be a repetition of the occurrence which happened on Wednesday last, and at a time and under circumstances

which will involve a serious amount of damage to property as well as loss of life ? This suggests two important questions, to which at present there seems to be no satisfactory answer. Is it not desirable on public grounds that an independent enquiry should be held into the causes of the recent accident, with the object of ascertaining who was really to blame ? As there was unquestionably a fire, we presume there should be an inquest. We understand, however, that the Coroner is unable to hold one unless the matter has been reported to him by the police. If so, we trust the police authorities will see that the accident is duly reported, so that the much-needed investigation may take place. Another question is, Should there not be proper supervision over such works, so that the necessary precautions for ensuring safety may be enforced ? We have a Building Act, and Parliament has more than once made an unsuccessful attempt to pass a measure for the inspection of boilers. We are not sure that either the actual or the attempted legislation just referred to would meet the case in question. It seems rather absurd, however, that we should have very stringent regulations about the storage and carriage of kerosine, gunpowder, and other inflammable and explosive materials, and yet that, so far as we know, there should be no means for enforcing the safe storage of gas. No doubt it is supposed that the Company will effectually look after its own interests. In the meantime, however, the residents in the neighbourhood of gasworks want some assurance that this is being done. Probably every one is frequently near to many dangers of which he is happily unconscious; but it is not reassuring to find that in a moment we may be deprived of our supply of light, and possibly also placed beyond the reach of all further use for it.

1884

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 23 January 1884, page 2

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

HINDMARSH, TUESDAY, JANUARY 22.

Present — The Mayor (Dr. Rees, J.P.) Councillors King, Weeks, Saunders, Wright, Turton, and Crossman, also Town Clerk and Surveyor (Mr. John Tait). The MAYOR apologized for his unavoidable absence in Melbourne at the time of the last meeting of the Council. He and Councillor Weeks had attended the meeting of the Municipal Association lately held in Adelaide.

Questions.

— Fire Brigade —

Councillor TURTON asked if the Council had power to form a Fire Brigade, which he thought ought to be organised for the protection of property. The MAYOR said the Council had power to form such a brigade. The TOWN CLERK drew attention to the fact that some time since the Council moved in the matter, and the objection then urged against the project (and which still continued) was the weak pressure of water supplied through the mains. Several of the Councillors said that representations had frequently been made to the Commissioner of Waterworks respecting the weak pressure of water, and promises had been made that the matter should be attended to. Councillor TURTON had had reason lately to complain to the office about the low pressure, and his complaint was promptly attended to by a person being sent down to test the pressure. Councillor KING thought it probable the Insurance Companies would contribute towards the cost of forming a brigade. The Mayor was deputed to wait on the Commissioner and call his attention to the matter; and the Town Clerk was

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11 December 2024

requested to obtain what information he could respecting the brigade organization, and report to the next meeting.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 4 February 1884, page 2

GENERAL NEWS

A fire occurred at Hindmarsh on Saturday, February 2, on the premises of Messrs. Turton & Marshall. It was suppressed with some difficulty by the exertions of the neighbors, who forming themselves into a continuous line as far as the pughole, contrived to keep a constant stream of water directed against the fire. The pressure in the pipes was very small. Fortunately no appreciable damage was done, but the occurrence gives point to Councillor Turton's suggestion in the Hindmarsh Council recently as to the necessity of a fire brigade being established in the town, as well as an improvement being effected to the water pressure.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 6 February 1884, page 6

HINDMARSH CORPORATION.

Tuesday, February 5.

Present—His Worship the Mayor (Dr. John Rees), Crs. Weeks, Crossman, King, Saunders, Turton, and the town clerk and surveyor (Mr. John Tait), An apology was received for the absence of Cr. Wright.

The Mayor reported that he and the town clerk had waited on the hydraulic engineer with reference to the weak water-pressure in the town, and that he had urged on him the necessity of immediate steps being taken to provide the town with a pressure that would be equal to any emergency. Mr. Mestayer said that there was now a pressure of 70 lbs. to the inch, not 30 lbs., as mentioned, and that he would visit the town for the purpose of testing the water-pressure at any time the corporation might appoint. Cr. Turton doubted if the pressure was 70 lbs. He believed the pressure to be only 30 lbs. in Chief-street and 27½ in West-street (Brompton ward). Cr. Weeks said that the sooner the pressure was increased the better, as fires had occurred in the town quite recently. At a fire which took place on the premises of Councillor Turton and Mr. Marshall all the surrounding taps were brought into use, and the supply fell far short of what was required; in fact a hose was placed on one of the taps and the water was not forced more than seven feet, and had it not been for the strenuous efforts of a number of people, who formed a line and passed the water by buckets from a pughole, much damage would have been done, Cr. King remarked that sometimes the pressure was greater than at others. On one occasion recently he timed the filling of a large-sized American bucket, which took 43 seconds, Cr. Saunders, in endorsing the remarks of the previous speakers, said there had not been any improvement in the water-pressure since twelve months ago, when the council asked the hydraulic department to increase the pressure. It was decided that the hydraulic engineer's offer be accepted, and that the tests be made on Monday next. He (town clerk) had enquired of the Norwood and Kensington Corporation as to how the Norwood Fire Brigade was constituted, and was informed that the Government had nothing to do with it, and that it was supported by voluntary contributions. He had also interviewed Mr. Abrahams on the subject.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Tuesday 12 February 1884, page 7

WATER PRESSURE AT HINDMARSH.

On Monday afternoon, February 11, the hydraulic engineer (Mr. Mestayer) and Mr. Jenkinson visited Hindmarsh for the purpose of testing the water pressure in the presence of the mayor (Dr. John Rees) and the members of the town council. The first test was made on a three-inch main opposite the National Bank on the south side of the Port-road. The indicator showed over 80 feet "head" with a pressure of 3468 lbs. to the square inch. For the information of the uninitiated it may be mentioned that the term "head" means the height to which the water would rise in a pipe and ripple over. A 90-foot hose was brought into play, and the distance to which the water was thrown was about 60 feet. The hydrant was next placed on a fireplug in front of the new post-office, and the meter was then thrown back towards the fireplug at which the test had previously been made, and overlapped the distance which the water was thrown from when the test was first made, 60 feet. At the request of the mayor a trial was made as to whether the water could be forced over the parapet of the new post-office, 38 feet high, from the waterplug in front with the same length of hose-pipe. This trial was successfully performed. It was doubted by some of the councillors whether the pressure would be effective for the purpose of extinguishing a fire at that distance, but Mr. Mestayer explained that in the event of a fire any length of hose-pipe could be utilised, and that thereby the water could be brought to play on the flames as close as a fireman could approach them. He said the pressure was equal to any emergency, and expressed himself quite satisfied with the result. Mr. Mestayer also mentioned that during the afternoon the pressure was at its minimum, and that toward evening or during the night it would be much greater. The second test was made on a ten-inch pipe on the north side of the Port-road in front of the present Post-office. This gave a "head" of 90 feet with a 39-inch pressure. A good column of water was then thrown over the post-office. The other tests were made under the direction of Mr. Jenkinson, Mr. Mestayer having to leave on account of another engagement. The third place of trial was in West-street, Brompton, on a three-inch main, opposite to where a fire had recently occurred on the premises of Messrs. Turton & Marshall. This was the most un-favorable place for testing purposes of any, it being a blind end and at a considerable distance from the principal main, but a pressure of 39 lbs. per inch with a "head" of 90 was obtained. A six-inch main in Chief-street was then tried, with similar results. The last trial was in Richard-street, Hindmarsh, opposite the premises of Councillor King, the result obtained being 85 "head," with a pressure of about 37 feet to the square inch. Mr. Jenkinson explained to the satisfaction of the mayor and councillors that the "dribble" about which complaints had been made, and from which the public judged the pressure of the water to be according to the force at which it ran, was caused by the pipes corroding and not allowing the water to run freely; and in order to satisfy the onlookers he placed his finger under the mouth of the tap and demonstrated that even with the small "dribble" an equal pressure with that on the main was shown, in as much as it forced a good spray when allowed vent. The nozzle used to show the distance the water could be forced was a ½ inch one, but in order to demonstrate how a greater volume of water could be obtained a 1-inch nozzle was placed on the hose at the trials made on the premises of Councillors Turton and King. On the former the water forced a portion of a stack of bricks down, and at the latter caused some ornamentation on the top of a two-story-building to totter. The mayor and councillors considered that the tests were perfectly satisfactory, and that the "dribble" was caused by the service pipes becoming choked by corrosion, which was a matter for the persons who owned the connections to look after.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 5 March 1884, page 2

CORONER'S INQUEST

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

On Tuesday the City Coroner conducted an enquiry at the Hope Inn, on the fire which occurred on the premises of William Shearing, brickmaker, Hindmarsh, on February 26. William Shearing, brickmaker, said he bought thousands of tons of wood during the year, which was sold to carters. About two months ago a stack of wood was burnt valued at £135. It was insured, and the money was paid me. Am of opinion the fire originated from the kiln, as it was alight at the time. On February 26 another similar fire occurred while I was at a picnic, but the kilns were not alight that day. Am not aware of anyone having a bad feeling towards me. This stack also was insured. Smoking is not prohibited on the premises. The carters usually light their pipes before leaving the yard. James Shearing said he was called to see the fire on the 26th Feb., and found a stack of wood in flames. About fifty men were trying to put it out. The kilns were not alight that day, and cannot assign any reason for the fire. Had a temporary iron fence put up to save the sheds. By Jury—Have no suspicion of any one. John Gording, in the employ of Mr. Shearing, said he first saw the fire about 2 p.m. Was in the shed at the time. The kilns were not alight that day. There was a load of wood in the yard about 12, but don't know the driver. Did not see him unload. Have no idea what started the fire, and never heard any one threaten to burn the premises. Am a smoker. Charles Brand, foreman in the employ of Mr. Shearing, said the kilns were put out on the 21st, and had not been lighted since. Don't know how the fire occurred. There was a carter named Coombs delivering a little before I was called, but don't know whether he was smoking. Heard his dray leave, and was called ten minutes after. When I first saw the fire it was burning close to where Coombs had been delivering wood. William Hardy, a brickmaker, said he was at the first fire about two months ago. Think it was started by the kilns, Don't remember whether any woodcarters were there then. Did not know anything of the second fire. Thomas Coombs, woodcarter, said he was out in the yard at the first fire, but was delivering wood the same day as the second. Got there about ten minutes past 1. Was not smoking when delivering the wood, but afterwards smoked in a kiln only. Was in the kiln about five minutes. Went there to get a cart-note signed. Left the yard about a quarter to 2. The Jury, after a brief deliberation, returned a verdict to the effect that there was no evidence to show how the fire originated.

Port Adelaide News and Lefevre's Peninsula Advertiser (SA : 1883 - 1897), Friday 5 March 1886, page 4

FIRE.—About quarter past eight on Wednesday night the residents of Woodville were aroused by hearing a loud report and the cry of fire, and flames were seen rising from the lower portion of the overway bridge at the railway station, on the Finsbury Park side of the line. From what we can gather, the porter, named Patrick Bryan, was pumping gasoline for the usual evening supply of gas, when an explosion from some unknown cause took place in one of the small drums of gasoline, throwing Bryan on to the railway line, and burning his face and hands dreadfully, so much that he had to be taken to the hospital immediately. The flames spread with great rapidity, the lurid glare lighting up the surrounding district with dazzling brightness, and it was at first feared that the gasometer would explode, but the crowd of spectators were soon set at ease when the gas was seen to go off in a huge flame, rising about thirty feet above the overway bridge. The fences on both sides of the bridge

were soon disconnected to prevent the flames catching the signal-box on one side and the waiting-room on the other, and plenty of willing hands carried water, and worked hard to prevent the fire from spreading, in which they succeeded, and at nine o'clock the flames were subdued, and the debris smouldering away. About a quarter past nine the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Reel arrived with five firemen, in charge of Mr. Shearing, which played on the smouldering mass till all signs of fire had vanished. Great praise is due to a large number of residents, who worked with a good free will, and to whose efforts the saving of the overway bridge is mainly attributable. This is the first fire that has taken place in Woodville for a considerable time, but the necessity of having a fire-reel in the district was evident when the flames were spreading over the stairs of the bridge, without the slightest impediment, the buckets of water making not the slightest impression. The glare was seen by persons at the Semaphore, who thought a fire had broken out in Glanville, but upon enquiry at the Exeter police station learned that no news had been received then of any fire.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Thursday 20 November 1884, page 6

HINDMARSH WARD, HINDMARSH.

A meeting of ratepayers was held at the Hope Inn, Hindmarsh, on Wednesday evening, to hear the views of candidates for the mayoralty. Dr. REES reiterated his previously expressed views, and said Mr. Wedlock, a member of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, had offered his services gratuitously to assist a local fire brigade if formed. Councilor Turton stated that a resident of the town who had had six years experience in connection with a fire brigade was about to offer his services.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 20 November 1884, page 6

HINDMARSH.

On Wednesday evening, November 19, a meeting of ratepayers was held at the Hope Inn, Hindmarsh, when there was a good attendance. The candidates for the Mayoralty— Dr. Rees, J.P. (Mayor) and Mr. E. Gould— were present, and also the candidates for Hindmarsh Ward (Messrs. Cornish and Willis). The Mayor recapitulated his views as already published, and, referring to the low pressure of water in the town, said the Hydraulic Engineer had proved to them that the water pressure was abundant, and the pressure in the service taps was caused by the pipes becoming corroded. In view of the calamities that had occurred in Adelaide and Port Adelaide, the Mayor strongly urged the establishment of a volunteer fire brigade, his remarks being received with loud cheers.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 24 November 1884, page 7

HINDMARSH.

On Saturday evening, November 22, a meeting of ratepayers was held at the Excelsior Hotel, Brompton Park, There was a good attendance, and Mr. E. W. Palmer presided.

Mr. William Medwell - As regards the formation of a fire brigade, he thought it a disgrace that such had not been organized years ago

[Wednesday 25th November. Fire Brigade Formed.](#)

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 27 November 1884, page 3

FIRE BRIGADE FOR HINDMARSH.—On Wednesday evening, November 26, a meeting for the formation of a Fire Brigade, called by circular, took place in the Council Chamber, Hindmarsh. The Mayor (Dr. Rees, J. P.) presided, and explained the object of the meeting, which was to form a Volunteer Fire Brigade. The Mayor dwelt fully on the necessity of such an organization being established. Rules were revised and adopted, and the following appointments made:—Patrons, Messrs. F. E. Bucknall, M.P., and Caleb Peacock, J.P.: President, Dr. John Rees, J.P. (Mayor); and fifty-four Vice-Presidents; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Arthur Burnell; Hon. Secretary, Mr. John Reid, jun. Fifteen members for the brigade were chosen, from which number eight will be selected by the promoters—Messrs. King, Burnell, Reid, and Walter Scriven. The Secretary announced that the Norwood Brigade had kindly promised to bring their reel and men to Hindmarsh to give the Hindmarsh Brigade a practice. Also that an eligible position for the reel station had been promised by Mr. J. E. Mitton, Port-road. The meeting resolved that the brigade property should be vested in Trustees, viz., the Patrons and President. The Honorary Secretary announced that subscription-lists were ready for distribution. A late member of the London Fire Brigade (Mr. Shearing) was present, and gave information in matters of detail. Votes of thanks were accorded to the Mayor for his hearty support, to the Norwood Brigade, Mr. J. E. Mitton, and to the Press for the attendance of their representatives.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Thursday 27 November 1884, page 4

The Advertiser

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1884.

A meeting convened for the purpose of forming a volunteer fire brigade at Hindmarsh was held in the local council chamber on Wednesday evening. There were 20 persons present. The Mayor (Dr. Rees), who presided, said there was no doubt that the time had arrived when a fire brigade should be formed, especially as incendiarism appeared to be rampant. Property owners in the town undoubtedly would be interested in the movement, and would render assistance towards the formation and support of the proposed brigade. He suggested that it be formed on the volunteer principle, and he had no doubt there would not be any difficulty in obtaining active members. He would give his hearty support. Mr. J. M. Reid said the leading residents of the town who had been spoken to on the subject had promised their support. A preliminary meeting had been held, and arrangements made to form the brigade, and it now remained to formally move that a fire brigade be established. He thought it would be advisable to have active and honorary members, the number of the former to be limited from eight to forty. He moved "That a fire brigade be formed, and that it be named the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade," Mr. Walter Scriven seconded, and commented on the advantages that would be derived from the brigade in the event of a fire occurring. The motion was carried. A rough draft of rules drawn up by the promoters, Messrs. J. M. Reid, F. King, W. Scriven, and A. Burnell, was read and passed. The election of officers resulted as follows, subject to their approval :—Patrons, Messrs. F. E. Bucknall, M.P., and Caleb Peacock; president, the Mayor of Hindmarsh (Dr. Rees), who were also elected trustees; hon. secretary, Mr. J. M. Reid; hon. treasurer. Mr. A. Burnell. The names of fifty-four vice-presidents were read, and fifteen names of active members were given in, from which eight will be chosen by the promoters. An offer from Mr. J. E. Mitton for a site on the Port-road as a brigade station was accepted, and it was decided to accept the invitation of the Norwood fire brigade to visit their station, for the purpose of inspecting the plant. Dr. Rees said he

would lay the matter before the town council, and he believed the members would individually give the movement support. In order to start a subscription list he promised a donation of £2 2s.

Friday 5th December. Fire at Brompton.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 10 December 1884, page 7

THE SUSPICIOUS FIRE AT BROMPTON.

Mr. T. Ward (the City Coroner) held an inquest at the Gasworks Hotel, Brompton, on Tuesday afternoon to enquire into the cause of the fire which occurred on the premises of the South Australian Brick company on Friday night last. Mr. A. Puddy was chosen foreman of a Jury of seven. John William Nelson, of Brompton, in the employ of the S.A. Brick Company, recollected the night of the fire. Left the yard at about 8 p.m., when he noticed nothing unusual about the premises. Went home, and remained there till about 7.30. He then left to attend a meeting of Good Templars at Hindmarsh, where he remained till about a quarter to 10. On the road home went along West-street at the rear of the stables on the premises of the Brick Company, and noticed nothing unusual. At the corner of the premises met three friends, recently arrived from the country. They came from the direction of Prospect. Left them at about twenty minutes to 11. In about a couple of minutes after leaving them saw flames in the direction of the brickyard. Went to it at once and called out, "fire." When he arrived he saw that the haystack was on fire on the northern side. It had a strong hold at the time. Went into the stable to get the horses out, and with the help of others got out about fifteen or sixteen. The stack burnt very fiercely, and caught a shed adjoining, which was destroyed. When the fire had nearly burnt itself out the Waterworks Reel arrived. He considered that the fire was the work of an incendiary. He thought it would be impossible for a spark from the engine to cause the fire. Had never during the four years he had been in his present position seen any person loafing about the stack at night. William Hill, in the employ of the S.A. Brick Company, was at the kiln on the night of the fire. He saw it first at about a quarter to 11 o'clock. Called the foreman, but he was not in. Went at once and assisted in removing the horses from the stables. Endeavoured by removing the grass to impede the progress of the fire, which then had hold of the shed. Did not think the fire could have been caused by a spark from the engine. Patrick Curtin, in the employ of the S.A. Brick Company, was at home when he saw the fire. Ran to the scene and endeavoured to get a pagnell out of the shed, but was unable to do so on account of the intense heat. Had no idea as to the cause of the fire, except that it was the work of an incendiary. Had frequently seen larrikins sleeping near the hay stack. About two months ago, at about 4 o'clock in the morning, found two youngmen sleeping amongst the chaffbags near the haystack. Threatened to give them in charge of the police if he found them again. By a Juror— All was safe near the scene of the fire at 8.30 on the evening in question. Police-constable James Standish, on duty at Bow-den until the 4th of this month, said at the request of the Brick Company he had often removed several larrikins from their premises. Had often seen larrikins smoking on the kilns at night time. James Turton, one of the partners of the S.A. Brick Company, remembered the fire which destroyed a haystack, a shed, a trap and harness, valued altogether at about £80. None of the property destroyed was insured. He could give no reason for the origin of the fire. After a short retirement the Jury returned the following verdict :— "We are of opinion that the fire was occasioned by the carelessness of some person or persons unknown sleeping on the premises on the night of the conflagration, but not with felonious intent."

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 6 December 1884, page 5

Suspicious Fire at Brompton.— Another suspicious fire occurred at Brompton on Friday night. The scene of the conflagration was the large brickyard of the S.A. Brick Company, which faces Chief-street, Brompton, and extends right back to West-street. The flames completely demolished a stack containing from six to eight tons of hay, a galvanized-iron shed from fifty to sixty feet long, and a pagnell cart. They were first seen about twenty minutes to 11 o'clock by a man named William Nelson, who had been at a meeting of Good Templars, and was proceeding homewards along West-street, at the back of the stables. At first he saw nothing to excite his suspicion, but on turning round about ten minutes afterwards he noticed flames mounting from the rear of the premises. He immediately returned, and found the haystack to be enveloped in fire. Having given the alarm, he returned to the scene and rendered assistance in getting out sixteen horses, which were in great danger, from the stables. The Waterworks Reel was first to arrive about 11.30, but by that time the fire had caught the shed containing the pagnell. Seeing that there was no chance of saving the structure, the firemen turned their attention to the stables, which were saved by their exertions. By 12 o'clock the fire had burnt itself out, and there was no more danger. The last person in the employ of the firm to visit the stables was the watch-man Patrick Curtain, who went round at about half-past 8. At the time of the fire a man was at work at the kilns which were lighted up ; but it is very improbable that a spark from these could have caused the fire, as they were fully 100 yards away, and the wind was blowing in an opposite direction. Mr. Turton, one of the partners, believes the fire to be the work of an incendiary, but is at a loss to suggest any one who would be guilty of such an act. The hay was valued at from £15 to £20 and was insured, but neither the shed, valued at about £50, nor the pagnell, worth about £20, were insured. The Adelaide Head Station firereel went down, but their assistance was not required.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 20 December 1884, page 4

Latest News

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.— A short time since a meeting was called for the purpose of organizing a Fire Brigade for Hindmarsh, the expense of reel and appointments being estimated at £100, and on Friday evening, December 19, the committee formed on the previous occasion met in the Institute building, when the Hon. Secretary (Mr. J. M. Reid) reported that about £60 had already been promised, and that the brigade could be considered formed. Several additional names were received from persons desirous of joining the brigade, but for the present the committee decided to limit the number to eight. After the disposal of several matters of detail the committee adjourned.

From the book, A Short History of The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade – 1884 to 1942

A vote of thanks was then given to the Notwood Volunteer Fire Brigade who had kindly given a lot of information to lay before the meeting, also to Mr. E.J. Mitton for offering a site on the Port Road, Hindmarsh to the Brigade on which to build a shed for the Fire Reel.*

1885

January 26th – At a meeting held this day, Mr. John Marshall Reid was elected Captain, Mr. J. Duncan First Lieutenant, Mr. John H. Reid Second Lieutenant, Messrs. J. McDonald, H. Burnell, G. Coulthard, J. Seely and G. Scarde as firemen.

January 29th – The new hose reel was completed and handed over to the brigade. With 6 foot wheels and built by a local, Mr. Robert Jarvis, (listed as Robert St and Manton St, Hindmarsh in the Sands & McDougall's South Australian Directory for 1885. wheelwright, Robert St, Hindmarsh) coachbuilder in Hindmarsh.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 4 February 1895, page 6

Fire at Hindmarsh. — An alarm of fire was given at Hindmarsh at about 6 o'clock on Saturday evening. It transpired that some children were playing with matches, and set fire to bamboos and other loose wood next to a large woodheap belonging to Mr. J. W. Downs, wood merchant, Pickering-street, Brompton Park. As small portion of the fence was burnt, but fortunately the fire was perceived and put out with a few buckets of water. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was quickly on the spot, but their services were not required.

Thursday 19th February. New Fire Shed

The new shed was completed on Port Road, and the formal opening took place.

Positioned on the city side of the Land of Promise Hotel, it was known as the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade Number 1 station, or the Head Station.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 20 February 1885, page 2

Latest News.

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.—The opening ceremony in connection with the newly formed Fire Brigade for Hindmarsh took place on Thursday evening, February 19, in the presence of a large number of spectators. The proposal to establish a brigade was so warmly supported by the inhabitants that within two months £115 was subscribed, including £20 voted by the local Corporation. With this amount a suitable reel was purchased, with all the necessary requirements, and a head-station erected in the centre of the township on the Port road. The brigade comprises eight members, and is captained by Mr. J. N. Reid. On Thursday evening the men gave their first public exhibition of hose-practice, and, considering that they have only been in training about a fortnight, acquitted themselves remarkably well, and reflected credit on their instructor, Captain Warman. The Norwood, Payneham, and Kent Town Fire Brigades were also in attendance, and favoured the spectators with some specimens of their skill. After the demonstration an adjournment was made to the Land of Promise Hotel, where light refreshment was provided. The Mayor of Hindmarsh (Dr. Rees) occupied the chair, and there were about sixty ratepayers present, as well as the Mayor of Thebarton (Mr. E. J. Ronald), and the Hon. J. Pickering, M.L.C. After the usual loyal toasts had been disposed of Mr. Weeks proposed "The Parliament." In doing so he expressed himself a strong advocate for protection. The Hon. J. Pickering, M.L.C., in responding, said during the last three years the Upper House had worked harmoniously with the House of Assembly for the benefit of the colony. The Taxation Act was no doubt very unwelcome, and he was sorry that they were placed in such a fix, but rather than place the country in a hole he would submit to any tax. He was sorry that the people of South Australia had been so anxious to rush off to the war in the Soudan, as he thought under the circumstances they might have

remained quiet. England was at the present time able to support herself without putting the colony of South Australia to the expense of £100,000, which it appeared would be needed to send 200 or 300 men to Egypt. Dr. Rees gave "The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade." In their exhibition that evening they had shown that they were capable of creditably acquitting themselves, and the town of Hindmarsh should feel under a debt of obligation to them. Captain Reid acknowledged the compliment. Other toasts, including the " Visiting Fire Brigades," were given, and the meeting terminated.

The first call out for the new brigade

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 21 February 1885, page 10

The Week.

Early on Friday week a fire was seen to be raging in the direction of Prospect, and reports were current in the city that it was some haystacks burning on a farm on the North-Eastern-road. Police-troopers were immediately dispatched to ascertain the where-abouts of the conflagration, and to take all necessary steps to extinguish it. It was found that the fire was on Messrs. Hart Bros.' Beef-acres estate, and that it proceeded from a quantity of long grass. The flames were first noticed at about half-past 7 o'clock by some neighbors two sections distant from the O.G. Hotel, on the Beefacres estate. At that time a very small portion was alight, but the fiery element was not long in spreading, and in about twenty minutes the flames had consumed many acres of grass, and was travelling very quickly in a northerly direction. There was a strong wind blowing, which carried the fire along rapidly. A large number of neighbors turned out, and with bags and boughs tried to arrest the progress of the flames, but to no purpose. Several mounted constables having reached the spot did all they could to put out the fire. The flames, which ascended to a great height, were carried across the road on to grass paddocks on the opposite side, where a deal of herbage was burnt. After about two hours' work the fire was beaten out after having consumed about one hundred acres of grass. Just after the fire had been put out another was discovered in a grass paddock some distance lower down the road, and later on a third was found to have broken out a mile or so further along the road. With some difficulty the flames were got under. Nothing is known of the origin of the fires, but they were supposed to be the work of an incendiary. It may be mentioned that when the reflection of the fires was first seen in the city Captain Moore with the fire brigade turned out, but returned, as it was found the conflagrations were some distance from the city. The Hindmarsh fire brigade with their appliances were called out for the first time on Friday evening through the alarm of the fires. Mr. Thwaite provided a conveyance at a very short notice, and drove the members in the direction of the flames until the cause of the alarm was discovered.

March 31st – It was noted that the Captain should be in possession of the bell held by the Corporation, which is to be used as the Fire Alarm Call.

April 21st – The Bell was received from the Corporation.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 15 May 1885, page 4

HINDMARSH, THURSDAY, MAY 14.

Present—His Worship the Mayor (Dr. Rees, J. P.), and Councillors Gould, King, Turton, Medwell, Willis, and Stroud; also the Town Clerk and Surveyor (Mr. John Tait). J. M. Reid,

Captain of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, wrote asking that the Council would officially recognise the Fire Brigade, in accordance with a request from the Adelaide Fire Brigade Board. To be complied with.

May 19th – The Brigade received the letter and became recognized by the Hindmarsh Corporation as a Fire brigade as the proper qualified body within its boundaries.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Thursday 21 May 1885, page 3

FIRE BRIGADES BOARD.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13.

Present —Messrs. W. Cavenagh (chairman), E. M. Ashwin, R. O. Fox, Theo. Hack, C. L. Meyer, H. Y. Sparks, and W. B. Wilkinson (secretary).

Accounts amounting to £60 11s. 8d. were passed for payment.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The secretary of the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Company wrote concerning claim on premium receipts of the Mutual Insurance Company of South Australia. The terms offered to be accepted. The Colonial Insurance Company of New Zealand wrote respecting liability for payment of contribution while risks remain current in South Australia. To be referred to clauses 14 and 15 of the Fire Brigades Act, and informed that the board expect them to contribute to the end of the financial year, June 30 next. The secretary of the Mercantile Marine and Fire Insurance Company wrote as to supplying particulars of insurances in fire reports. To be informed that the matter has been referred to the superintendent, and will receive his attention as far as practicable. The chairman of the Destitute Board wrote, calling attention to the want of adequate arrangements for the protection of the Destitute Asylum against fire. The superintendent to visit and report on same. The secretary of local fire brigade board, Port Augusta, reported fire on May 6, and requested instructions as to steps necessary to be taken. The secretary said he had supplied the information. The secretary of the Adelaide Fire Insurance Association called attention to the dangerous state of premises in Currie-street. The superintendent to immediately inspect and report. It was resolved that when the secretary receives notice of any premises being in a dangerous state he at once refer the matter to the super-intendent for inspection and immediate report.

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES.

A deputation of members of the Norwood and Hindmarsh volunteer fire brigades waited on the board. Mr. Diamond, the hon. superintendent, introduced the subject on which the deputation had attended. After reviewing the history of the formation and services of the Norwood Volunteer Brigade he asked that the board would in some way formally recognise the existence of volunteer brigades, and assured the board that if this were done very valuable assistance would be given to the permanent brigade at large fires by the volunteer brigades already formed. Mr. J. M. Reid, captain of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade, said no payment whatever would be expected from them for any services rendered at fires, and that every assistance would be given to the superintendent by the volunteer brigades outside their own districts, provided the board would recognise the volunteer brigades. A number of questions were put by members of the board, and having been favorably answered the chairman intimated that every consideration would be given to the request of

the deputation. The superintendent's report, dated May 13, re the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, was read, and it was resolved that the brigade be recognised by the board, and that an intimation be sent to the municipality of Hindmarsh. The following motions were also passed :— "That provided the superintendent reports favorably of the Norwood brigade it be at once recognised by this board, and a notification to that effect be sent to the Norwood municipality, with an intimation that the board are not aware of any local fire brigade board now existing." "That special regulations for the guidance of volunteer brigades be framed by the superintendent, and submitted for approval of the board, and that until such regulation come into force the volunteer brigades be informed that they must not leave their respective districts unless sent for by the superintendent," "That an application be sent to the Government, asking them to at once establish telephonic communication between the head station and the head stations of Norwood and Hindmarsh brigades." "That a letter of thanks be sent to the Norwood brigade for their past services in assisting to extinguish fires, and for their offers of services outside their district,"

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 29 May 1885, page 6

HINDMARSH. Thursday. May 28.

Fire Brigade.— Secretary to Adelaide Fire Brigade Board wrote, that the Superintendent had reported favourably of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and which the Board had accepted.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Friday 16 October 1885, page 5

HINDMARSH CORPORATION.

Thursday, October 15.

The members of the local fire brigade attended, and Captain J. Reid presented a framed grouped photo, of the brigade reel and station to the council in recognition of the support given. The mayor appropriately acknowledged the gift.

Sunday 25th October. The brigades first call out was reported in the Express and Telegraph newspaper to a burning pughole near the ropemakers Messrs. Hamlyn & Co., in Hindmarsh. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire brigade's history book refers to the fire at Tamlin and Coombe, ropeworks at Carrondown. All twelve members of the brigade attended and had the fire out within ten minutes. The brigade earned high praise from the residents for their smart turnout.

Further research identifies there was a ropeworks located in Croydon in 1885 of Messrs. William Henry Tamlin and James Coombe, ropemakers who had property on the West side of Government Road (South Road) between Princes Street and Euston Terrace.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 26 October 1885, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

On Sunday evening at about twenty minutes past 9 o'clock an alarm of fire was caused in Hindmarsh by the blowing of a horn at the gas-works, and a report which was made by Corporal Booth. In consequence the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade turned out, and discovered the fire to be in a pughole close by the factory of Messrs. Hamlyn & Co., ropemakers. A lot of flax and waste material, which had been seen smouldering at a quarter to 6 o'clock, had set light to the grass around, and by the time the brigade had arrived the sparks had risen as

high as the tops of the trees. The fire, which would have been a very serious one but for the efforts of the brigade, was very quickly extinguished. A large number of people turned out upon the alarm being given.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Friday 27 November 1885, page 3

HINDMARSH CORPORATION.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26.

Present—The mayor (Dr. Rees), Crs. Gould, King, Turton, Willis, Stroud, and the town clerk and surveyor, Mr. John Tait The mayor read his annual report for the year 1885.

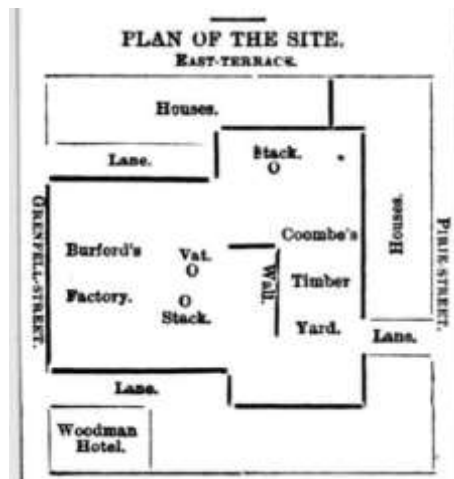
Fire Brigade.—The opening ceremony in connection with the newly-formed brigade for Hindmarsh took place on the evening of February 19 in the presence of a large number of spectators. The proposal to establish a brigade was so warmly supported by the inhabitants that within two months £115 were subscribed, including £20 voted by this corporation. With this amount a suitable reel was purchased, with all necessary appliances, and a head station erected in the centre of the town on the Port-road. The captain, John M. Reid, wrote the council thanking them for their donation, and stated that the property of the brigade had been vested in trustees on behalf of the town, and the trust deed would be the property of the corporation.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 17 December 1885, page 3

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE. —The annual meeting of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade will take place in the Hindmarsh Institute this evening.

Wednesday 16th December. Fire in Adelaide East.

Fire at Coombe's timber-yard and Burford's factory in Adelaide. Hindmarsh brigade assisted.



Evening Journal Thu 17 Dec 1885 page 3

From – A Short History of The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, 1884 to 1942. Page 3.

At 6.00 p.m. on December 16th, 1885, Superintendent Salter rang the Hindmarsh Police asking them to inform the Brigade of a fire in the City at Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons candle works and Coombe's Timber Yard in Grenfell Street East. The Brigade attended this

fire and after working for seven hours the worst of the fire was over, Superintendent Salter thanked the members for the manner in which they had worked, then dismissed them.

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 19 December 1885, page 23

THE FIRE AT COOMBE'S AND BURFORD'S.

The wreck of the large, fire that started at Mr. Coombe's timber-yard on Wednesday evening presented little else to view on Thursday morning than blackened timber, charred masonry, and the remains of the machinery, &c., destroyed at Messrs. Burford's factory. The ruins were still smouldering, and volumes of smoke arose as the flames burst out afresh now and again. Several hoses were playing in various places where there was any sign of the fire again becoming strong, but with one exception there was no sign of anything but smoke. The exception referred to was a mass of resin in the centre of Messrs. Burford's factory, which continued to burn until the evening. As the flames were confined simply to the resinous collection, no attempt was made to extinguish it, it being apparently considered better to let it burn out, and simply check it spreading amongst the surrounding debris. The only portions of the factory standing are the stack and the boundary walls. The houses on East-terrace which were damaged present a desolate and deserted aspect, and the injury sustained by them is very apparent. Mr. A. Clausen is one of the largest house property holders in the vicinity, but singularly enough the fire did him very little damage beyond the destruction of his timber-yard, which is leased by Mr. Coombe. A clean sweep was made of the yard of Mr. G. L. Bonython, who lost two workshops and the timber and plant about them, and of Mr. Burford's premises. Besides this considerable damage has been done to several of the houses on East-terrace by means of the boiling fat which poured from the soap factory into the back yards, Mr. Bonython, who was in Tasmania, being a special sufferer. A semi-liquid mass of resin and fat still remained collected across the foot path in front of the factory, and mixed with water was in the afternoon flowing down the watertables. A fair quantity of timber seems to have been preserved intact, while a considerable amount has been only partially damaged. No little surprise is expressed at the good fortune of the Woodman Hotel in escaping destruction. Its walls are completely blackened and the woodwork charred, while it presents, a very deserted appearance. Many of the occupants of the houses adjoining were busy yesterday in replacing the furniture which was removed on Wednesday night. On Thursday evening the last of the flames were entirely subdued. One of the most lamentable features of the fire is the loss occasioned by some of the poor people in the vicinity. Several of the cottage occupiers lost a quantity of their furniture by the fire itself, while other articles were rendered useless through water. A widow had nearly all her clothes and house linen burnt, two hawkers lost a quantity of stock and furniture, whilst a man named Cook had all his household property destroyed, and lost a considerable sum of money while he was assisting to remove the horses and vehicles belonging to Messrs. Burford & Sons by whom he was employed. It is pleasing to note that efforts are being made to raise subscriptions to relieve those who have lost their property and cannot afford to replace it.

1886

Sunday 3rd January. Fire at Mr. Dowie's Tannery, Bowden

From – A Short History of The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, 1884 to 1942. Page 3.

On Sunday January 3rd, 1886, at 5.56 p.m. the Gas Works Whistle blew for a fire at Mr. Dowie's Tannery in Eighth Street Bowden.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Monday 4 January 1886, page 5

A LARGE FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

DOWIE'S TANNERY DESTROYED.

Again the "fire fiend" has been at work, his devastation on this occasion being in the western suburb of Bowden. Sunday was a terribly hot day and many persons were fully prepared for a conflagration of some kind or another. The timber of houses and sheds and other surroundings of residences and buildings became fiercely heated to the touch, and therefore intensely inflammable. Anywhere and everywhere the slightest start would have resulted in extended demolition by fire. This susceptibility to ignition was highly demonstrated by the rapidity with which this latest fire swept along and burnt itself out. Within an hour no less than from £15,000 to £20,000 worth of property had been destroyed. That it should under the circumstances have been pre-vented from spreading reflects great credit upon the fire reels and the many men who early in the outbreak rendered valuable assistance. But for the energy displayed many of the buildings and structures in the neighborhood would easily have fallen a prey to the flames. The fire itself was confined to Mr. Dowie's tannery, but there a great deal of damage has been done, the whole place being pretty well gutted. As a consequence, a considerable number of workmen will be thrown out of employment. Altogether some thing like forty persons were employed on the premises, and until the majority of the buildings have been restored these cannot be put at work. Nor is it alone the destruction of buildings, but a number of indispensable and valuable machines have been rendered useless, and these will have to be replaced before operations can be recommenced. At the time of the fire Mr. Dowie, sen., was at Mount Lofty. Mr. Dowie, jun., was at Prospect, and Mr. Blight, the manager, was at his residence some short distance from the tannery. As soon as the fire had broken out, and it was evident that its ravages could not be restricted, Mr. Blight rode to Mount Lofty for Mr. Dowie, who reached the scene shortly before 10 p.m. At that hour the flames were completely under control, and shortly afterwards the field was left to the watching firemen and a few onlookers. The premises, comprising the tannery, together with several workmen's cottages, occupied about three and a half acres of land, which abutted principally on to Seventh-street, Gibson-street, and Eighth street, with a smaller frontage to Gilbert street. As near as possible the tannery was situated in the centre of this block, and ran right through from Seventh to Eighth streets. Facing the latter were the manager's cottage and the shed for ground bark ; immediately at the rear and to the south of the last-named, being the bark mill shed and the Tangye engine-room, all of which were completely gutted. A little further west, and behind the manager's cottage, was the old primitive shed, being the first buildings erected in connection with the tannery. In this was stored a large number of hides. Further to the south of these buildings was the long shed, the upper floor being used for currying and drying, and for storing boots and leather, and underneath on the ground were the tanpits filled with hides in different stages of tanning. All these buildings mentioned so far have been burnt out. but still to the south of them were the beam-shed, the scouring-shed, the lime pits, and the keeper's cottage. As the wind was blowing from the south-east these latter structures escaped, owing to a little attention from the reels. Mr. Dowie entered into possession of the business some two years ago, and at once began to effect improvements. About half the leather

manufactured was used in Mr. Dowie's boot factory, the other half being sold locally or exported. The tannery employed nearly 40 men and boys, comprising 12 curriers and 2 boys, 6 beamsman and 1 apprentice, 3 sole leather finishers, and about 12 laboring men. The average weekly output was 395 hides, 100 calfskins, and 300 basils, the total value varying from £2,000 to £3,000.

THE FIRE

The Fire.

Quite a host of people claim to have seen the fire first, and it is apparent that it was noticed simultaneously by a good many persons, it is also certain that the first outbreak was observed at about five minutes to 6 o'clock. At that hour both Mr. Blight and Mr. Barry saw the flames burst through the roof of the drying shed at the north-eastern end. Barry was standing in his yard looking towards the tannery, and noticed not the least sign of fire, but suddenly flames and smoke issued from the long shed. He rushed to the scene, and the alarm quickly spread. A number of men set to work to save all within reach, and by this means a good many bags of ground bark and casks of oil were removed into the adjacent streets. In the meantime the Hindmarsh reel had arrived and at once began to play on the cottages facing Gibson-street, in which direction the flames were trending. Then the North Adelaide reel put in an appearance, followed by Nos. 1 and 2 from Adelaide, under Superintendent Salter, and the Walkerville reel. One of the Adelaide reels broke an axle coming down King William-road, and the firemen and hose were conveyed to Hindmarsh by cabs. These began to attack the flames from different points of vantage, and also to prevent as far as possible their spread. As already stated the fire started in the upper floor of the drying-shed, and it rushed west ward from there with marvellous rapidity. The hoses were simply useless against it, and in a few minutes the whole shed was one blaze, and the bark and engine sheds to the north were quickly ignited. During the progress of the conflagration a scare set in amongst the immediate residents, and furniture and effects were either bundled out into the streets or packed ready for removal. There is doubt that if the flames had reached the shed where the oil was stored their limitation would have been a matter of the greatest difficulty. By 7 o'clock the fiercest raging of the fire had subsided, what was remaining of the buildings having fallen in smouldering heaps, and on these the firemen continued to direct their hoses. Although the manager's cottage became fired, it was saved to a considerable extent. In the earlier stages of the fire the same difficulty of insufficient pressure was experienced, and it seems quite incapable for the fire brigade to combat with an ordinary blaze from the niggardly way in which the water is meted out.

THE MANAGER'S STATEMENT.

Mr. W. Blight, the manager for Mr. Dowie, on being interviewed by our reporter, said:— I live in Twelfth-street, Bowden, which is very near the scene of the conflagration. Was first informed of the outbreak by my brother, who is an apprentice at the yard, at about five minutes to 6. Immediately rushed to the place and found the new shed, which, was erected pretty well in the centre of the premises, in flames. The fire spread rapidly, and in a few minutes the whole yard appeared to be enveloped in fire. The rapid progress of the fire was due to the quantity of wood used in the construction of the new shed, the iron roof of which was underlaid with matchboard. Shortly after noticing the out-break I started for Mount Lofty, where Mr. Dowie is at present residing, and brought that gentleman to the scene of the fire. On my return the yard was completely gutted. Mr. Dowie has owned the yard for

about three years, and during that period he has made a number of improvements in connection with the tannery, which was got into thorough working order only a few weeks ago. The shed in which the fire started was recently erected, and contained a quantity of new and valuable machinery. The height of this building was about 30 feet above the top of the roof of the main structure, and once the flames got a good hold of it they seemed to spread over the whole of the premises. The shed contained £2,000 worth of boots of all descriptions. Sides of sole leather to the number of 3,000 were also stored on the premises, whilst beside these there were 600 or 700 sides of kip, between fifty and sixty dozen kangaroo skins, more than 100 dozen wallaby skins, and 100 dozen calf. The bark on the premises was worth about £2,000. A few bags, however, have been saved, but 100 sides of harness leather have been totally destroyed. Am unable to say what damage has been done to the articles in the pits, which contained between £4,000 and £6,000 worth of leather that was uninsured, and about £800 worth of liquid also not covered, by insurance. This liquor will be chiefly damaged by water. The leather in the centre of the bales may perhaps be of some use, but I question whether they will be saleable. Had 46 bales of leather of 50 sides each ready to send to London by the Potosi on Monday week. They were not fully insured. Our best trade is done with London. Had about 150 tons of ground bark on the premises. A new engine and boiler had recently been erected. Am unable to say whether the boiler is destroyed. Have been grinding at the yard since the latter end of August, and have been doing about 300 hides a week. About forty hands were engaged on the premises. The last improvement effected on the premises was a new weighbridge, which is uninjured. Had thirty-eight hides in on Saturday, whilst shortly before this 130 were brought from Melbourne. No fire-reels or hose were kept on the premises, and owing to the clerk (Mr. Matthewson) living next door no watchman was employed. The men left work at 1 o'clock on Saturday, and everything was all right then. Have no idea whatever as to the origin of the fire. The employés were not allowed to smoke during working hours, but they occasionally smoked in the yard. People could get in after closing time, unless they climbed over the fence, a 9 feet galvanized iron one, and then they would be sure to be seen.

MR. MATTHEWSONS STATEMENT.

The resident clerk, Mr. Matthewson, stated —It was, I think, about ten minutes to 6 o'clock on Sunday evening that my little boy came rushing in exclaiming that the currying shop was on fire. I ran to the back door of my house and saw smoke issuing from the shop, and endeavored to get across to where it appeared to be coming from. Before I got there the flames burst along the entire shed, and it was in a mass of flames. The engineer, Mr. Elix, also tried to enter the boiler-room in order to turn the steam off the boiler, but he was unable to do so. I returned to my home as quickly as possible to rescue my family, but before I entered the roof was on fire and the flames appeared to enter the back rooms. There is never any fire allowed on the premises excepting that used in connection with the engine. The fire was banked up carefully on Saturday after the works were stopped. I can't give any idea as to the origin of the fire, as the utmost care has always been exercised by me in watching the premises and great precaution has been used. My impression is that the fire was caused by spontaneous combustion, owing to the excessive heat of the weather and the large quantity of grease and other similar material used on the premises.

INSURANCES.

There are four insurance companies affected by the fire, namely, the Guardian, the Commercial Union, the Colonial Mutual, and another which Mr. Dowie could not remember. The whole of the buildings were covered for £3,450, but of these about £1,000 worth are uninjured, the insurances being separate on different structures. On the stock and machinery there is a total of £5,550, and in this is included £3,000 on a large number of trunks of boots and some leather, which were stored in the upper floor of the drying shed; £700 on ground bark, £500 on hides, £500 on the old engine and bark-mill, £500 on the new Tangye engine, and so on down to leaser sums.

WHAT HAS ESCAPED.

The portions of the premises which have escaped are the Gibson-street cottages, the beam shed, the scouring shed, two men's cottages in the far eastern and northern corners, and the lime pits. The whole of the damage is roughly estimated at £15,000, but it is hard to say precisely until the pits and debris have been overhauled. Mr. Dowie estimates the value of the complete buildings and stock on the land at from £18,000 to £20,000, and as some of the structures and the unground bark were not insured he expects to be a loser to some considerable extent. From the general surroundings of the premises it would not be easy for any person to enter the yard, there being a 6-foot galvanized iron fence all round the premises, excepting at the entrance to the tan yard from Gibson-street. There is no suspicion as to the fire originating by the hand of an incendiary.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 5 January 1886, page 6

THE FIRE AT MESSRS. DOWIE'S TANNERY.

LATER PARTICULARS.

On Monday the fire was not wholly extinguished at the tannery owned by Messrs. Dowie at Bowden, and two reels were kept at work. Mr. Dowie, sen., was sent for at his residence in the hills about 8 o'clock, and immediately returned to Adelaide. He was on the scene of the fire during the whole night. He is thoroughly of opinion that the fire was due to accident, and that the sole leather in the pits has not been materially injured. Forty men will be thrown out of employment for some time on account of the disaster. Messrs. Dowie for several days past have been in the act, through Mr. Mackie, the insurance agent, of rearranging their insurances, so as to increase the amounts and separate the buildings, stock, and machinery under different headings, with one or more policies for each, instead of allowing the stock and property to go together as before. The old policies expired on December 21, and while the rearrangement was being settled they were held covered by the Companies. The following is a correct list of the insurances to December 21 last :— Commercial Union, £2,000 for boots and shoes, and £800 for the large drying-shed ; United Australian, £1,000 for the stock-in-trade; Colonial Mutual, £500 for machinery and £500 for stock ; Guardian, £600 for machinery and £2,050 for houses, mill, &c. ; Colonial Mutual, £700 for ground bark ; total, £8,150. The increases on the above in re-arrangement comprise £200 on a new engine, £150 on the new drying-shed, £100 on the overseer's dwelling-house, and £200 extra on the large shed; total, £650. Messrs. Dowie hold receipts for the current year's premiums, including the extras, from three of the Insurance Companies, but the fourth has not yet come to hand. The loss to Messrs. Dowie will amount to several thousand pounds, but the figures cannot be stated even approximately. Deep and widespread public sympathy is felt throughout Adelaide and the suburbs with Mr. A. Dowie and his son, who both hold a

high place in the estimation of those who know them, and their sympathizers in the disaster that has occurred may be found among all classes of society.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 8 January 1886, page 7

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir— I should like to call attention to the unsatisfactory position of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. When this brigade was formed an appeal was made to the public of Hindmarsh for funds. The Corporation voted them the sum of £20 and private subscriptions brought the total to about £140. With this the reel, &c. , was purchased, a shed built in which to keep it, and part of the men's outfits paid for, but in the event of their being called out there is no provision made for compensating the men for loss of time, destruction of clothes, &c, Now, Sir, the business of these men is to save life and property, which they do at great inconvenience, and at the risk of their lives, and therefore I think it is only right that the brigade should be provided with sufficient funds to fully equip them, and to replace damaged outfit and other property destroyed in the course of their labours. They have a claim upon the residents of the town, and I am sure that claim will be by them recognised, and also by the Corporation ; but I also think that they have a claim upon the Insurance Companies, for the brigade works in their interests, and to save property which if destroyed would augment the claims made upon their funds. This was the case on Sunday night last at Bowden, when but for their exertions a great deal of other property must have been destroyed. Hoping something may be done to place them upon a more satisfactory footing, I am, Sir, &c, JOS. VARDON. Hindmarsh, January 7.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Friday 8 January 1886, page 7

HINDMARSH CORPORATION.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7.

Cr. Willis said it was painful to witness the efforts of the firemen at Mr. Dowie's fire on Sunday owing to the insufficient water pressure. It was incumbent that business men should have standpipes near their premises, but if the water pressure was not increased insurance companies would raise premiums. Crs. Brooker and Gould concurred. The latter remarked that several hundreds of pounds' worth of material might have been saved at the fire had there been a greater water pressure. Cr. King remarked that the fireplugs were defective, and that as large a quantity of water was wasted as that going through the hose. Cr. Stroud pointed out that four hoses were supplied from one main. The pressure in Seventh-street was good. On the motion of Cr. Willis it was resolved that the Hydraulic Engineer be asked to give increased water pressure.

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 9 January 1886, page 34

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT BOWDEN.

THE MESSRS. DOWIE'S TANNERY DESTROYED.

Another fire, more destruction of valuable property, stoppage of a useful enterprise, and the indefinite suspension of work to some thirty breadwinners: this is the brief record of Sunday's fire at Messrs. Dowie's tannery at Bowden. The origin of the catastrophe, like that

of most fires, is involved in mystery. No one seems to have noticed it in its beginnings. When it was first seen it had complete hold of the premises. A huge mass of wattle-bark, tan, and leather all on fire in the very centre of the buildings, and sending forth heavy columns of smoke and flame was the earliest intimation the people on the property had of the danger at their doors. This was a few minutes before 6 o'clock, and within two hours what had been a well-ordered factory, with good machinery and a valuable stock of bark, leather, and oil, was a heap of ruins. The strong hold the fire had of the premises before it was discovered, coupled with the excessive heat of the weather, which had dried everything to the condition of tinder, will, of course, account for the rapid destruction. The factory stood upon 2 to 3 acres of land, bounded on the north and south by Seventh and Eighth streets, and on the west and east by Gibson street and the terrace. This fact saved a vast number of small cottage properties from being destroyed; but a number of the adjoining inhabitants, however, had for purposes of safety emptied their houses and placed the contents in the streets. The sight was distressing. Here a pile of bedding, there a chest of drawers; here a piano, there a table and some chairs, with the owners doing their best to protect their property; but we fear a good deal of it received considerable damage. It was a pitiful sight to see these homeless people, especially as so many of them were little children, upon whom the trying heat was telling very severely, The smoke drew a large number of spectators, not only from the immediate neighbourhood, but from North Adelaide, Walkerville, Kent Town, Norwood, Hindmarsh. Beverley, and even from longer distances. By a quarter-past 6 o'clock four fire brigades were on the spot, and two others followed shortly afterwards. The water pressure was very insufficient, but this, it is said, was accounted for by the fact that the watermain in the neighbourhood was only 3 inches in diameter. The brigade men worked heroically, and at times seemed to place themselves in unnecessary danger, especially when it was clear that the property could not be saved, and when the safety of human life other than their own was not in any way involved. At 8 o'clock at night a lurid mass of embers were left to tell the story of the first destructive fire of the new year.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE

The tannery is better known as Hayley's Tannery, but about four years ago Mr. Dowie purchased it from the executors of the late Mr. R. Hayley, and since then he and his son Mr. J. A. Dowie, with whom he was in partnership, have expended large sums of money in improving the accommodation and the working capacity of the establishment. As stated above the property extends over about 2 acres of land. Facing Eighth-street on the east were the barkshed, containing a large quantity of ground bark, the stable, and the overseer's house. Immediately behind the shed was the barkmill, built of stone and plaster, and almost attached to that came the engine and boiler. The mill was a two-story building containing another engine. After a small space there was the drying-shed 230 feet in length and 40 feet wide. The top of this was filled in the southern end with 200 trunks of boots and forty bales of leather, which were ready for immediate shipment, and at the northern end with drying leather, carriers' tables, &c. The machinery connected with the shed was also extensive and expensive. Underneath this part of the building were about 100 pits, containing sole leather in liquor. About ten months back a shed was built, 100 feet long, connecting the drying-shed with the barkmill. Going further northward and behind the overseer's house was the hideshed, a vacant piece of land dividing it from Gibson-street. Facing the street stand three cottages, all belonging to the Messrs. Dowie, but though the fire touched the back fences, they were not damaged. Coming up Seventh-street is the currying-shop and beamhouse,

both of which remain uninjured. On the left of the beam house are a number of limepits, and attached to the currying-house is a cottage recently purchased by the firm, which also is safe. Near the barkmill there were stacked 200 tons of long bark.

THE FIRE AND THE DAMAGE.

As near as can be ascertained the fire broke out shortly before 6 o'clock, and it must have spread with alarming rapidity, as the whole place was enveloped in flames at 6 o'clock, when our representative was on the spot. It appears beyond a doubt that it started in the long dry-shed, but the statements are rather conflicting as to the part of the shed in which it originated. Several claim to have been the first to see the fire begin, and the majority of these hold that the flames sprung up in the northern end, where the drying leather was situated. On the other hand, Leonard Whiteman, in the employ of Messrs. Dowie, and residing in the cottage adjoining the currying-shop, distinctly states that when he first saw the fire, at ten minutes to 6, it was confined to the southern end of the building, where the trunks of boots were stored. In this view he is supported by a resident of Seventh-street, named Bevan. However, wherever it broke out, the rapidity with which it spread was wonderful, as was the case in the recent fire on East-terrace. The shed, which was comprised chiefly of wood, was quickly demolished, as was the shed connecting it with the barkmill. The mill itself was completely gutted, the roof falling in, but the brick walls stood their ground. The large quantity of stacked long bark did not escape, but the firemen managed to save the ground bark in the shed, though a good deal of it was considerably damaged. A slight west wind blowing the flames caught Mr. Matthew-man's (the Overseer) house. Here again the firemen did good service, as they saved the building, though the roof went. North-wards the fire was checked in its progress before it reached the cottages facing Gibson street, though at one time it seemed certain that they would go. The wind being in the opposite direction, the currying-shop and beamhouse in Seventh-street were not touched, nor was the house adjoining. Having prevented the flames from spreading to the neighbouring property, the firemen directed their attention to the blazing mass in the centre, with a view of saving as much as possible of the valuable sole leather in the pits underneath the long shed. It was feared that the boiler would burst, but such was not the case. As a spectacle the sight was not a brilliant one, there being very little to see beyond volumes of dense smoke. The damage, as can well be imagined, was very serious. The most valuable part of the property were the pits containing sole leather. These were valued at between £4,000 and £5,000, and unfortunately were uninsured. To what extent they are damaged it is at present impossible to state, as they are underneath, and covered with the burnt ruins. It is feared that the liquor has been spoilt by the fire, and if this be the case the leather will be of little use. The 200 tons of long bark, valued £1,600, has been gutted, and unfortunately this was also uninsured. The ground bark in the shed in Eighth-street was partly damaged, but the bulk has been saved. On this there was an insurance of £700. The barkmill, used for the purpose of grinding bark, is insured for £500, and the engine and boiler were covered. These three have been so injured as to render them useless. The hidedshed has gone, and the overseer's house has lost its roof. On the latter there was an insurance policy of £500. Turning to the drying-shed again the Messrs. Dowie have suffered considerable inconvenience in losing 200 trunks of boots mid 40 bales of leather, which were ready for shipment and for which freight had been arranged. The boots were insured for £2,000 and the bales of leather partly covered. Willing hands removed the leather and oil out of the currying-shop, but as it turned out this was not needed. Two city, the Hind-marsh,

North Adelaide, Kent Town, and Norwood reels were present. The Hind-marsh Brigade also played the Waterworks hose from Seventh-street. The total amount of damage has been estimated at between £17,000 and £18,000, though it is impossible at present to fix it definitely. Stock was taken last August, and it was valued at £11,000 to £12,000. Since then it has been increased by £3,000. As will be seen by the insurance the Messrs. Dowie are heavy losers, and much sympathy is expressed for them. Messrs. Matthewman, Bevan, Rippan, Fogwell, and Whiteman, residents of the cottages referred to, were compelled to shift their furniture, all of which they are hardly likely to have restored to them. Whiteman has further lost most of his poultry, some of which was burnt. The consequences of the fire will also fall very heavily upon the thirty to forty men who were employed in the tannery, and upon whom probably 90 to 100 women and children are dependent. It should be mentioned that a horse and trolley were rescued from the stable unhurt.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE

Like the beginning of many other large fires the origin is a mystery, and to all appearances is likely to remain so. Mr. John Percy Matthewman, the overseer, said that he was going out of his house at ten minutes to 6 when his son raised the cry of "Fire." He went at once for the keys to open the yard gate, but the heat was so intense that he was reluctantly compelled to beat a hasty retreat with the engineer, who was also present. There was no one on the premises all day. At 1.30 p.m. he went round the establishment as usual, and everything was then all right. Two watchdogs were running loose, and he never heard them bark. When he first saw the fire it was in the drying-shed. He ventured the opinion that that was caused by the sun's rays being concentrated by means of an inferior piece of glass in the window on top of the shed, and thus ignited some inflammable material. Mr. A. F. W. Elix, the engineer, residing in Seventh-street, went with Mr. Matthewman with the keys of the engine room, but as they were unlocking the gate they noticed the floor of the big shed falling in, and the flames forced them back. It appears that there is a fire left in the furnace of the boiler all through Sunday, which is closed securely. Elix saw that it was all safe on Saturday at 1.10 p.m. No other fires were alight on the premises. He regularly once a Sunday inspected the boiler either in the morning or in the evening. On this occasion it was his intention to have done so in the evening later on. He is unable to account for the fire. The only other person whose statement bears upon the cause of the fire is Whiteman, and his evidence differs materially from that of Mr. Matthewman. He says that between 8 and 9 a.m. on Sunday he was walking across from his house to the stable to feed the horse when he heard men working in the southern end of the drying-shed. It not being an unusual circumstance he took no particular notice of it. This does not agree with Mathewman's statement that there was no one on the premises. It was at this part of the building, it will be remembered, that Whiteman positively declares the fire started. We were unable to interview any of the men who were at work, nor did Whiteman have any idea who they were. It was suggested that one of them might have been smoking, and thus have caused the fire, but this could hardly have been the case when the overseer stated that at 1.30 the place was all right. Mr. A. Dowie was absent at Mount Lofty, but Mr. A. J. Dowie, his partner, was on the scene a little over half an hour after the outbreak. To him we are indebted for much of our information. He was at his residence at Prospect, when his servant girl mentioned that there was a fire at Bowden. From the locality he felt afraid that it was his establishment, and his suppositions unfortunately turned out to be only too true. Mr. A. Dowie was sent for, but had not arrived when we left at 9 o'clock. It will be seen that it is very difficult to account for the origin. We

have several other statements, but they do not help to arrive at a conclusion. They merely corroborate what seems to be beyond fact, that the fire broke out in the drying-shed.

THE REELS AND THE WATER-SUPPLY,

The Head Station received intimation of the fire from the police at three minutes past 6 o'clock, and a reel was immediately dis-patched from there and another from Morphett-street Station. When the Head Station reel was nearly opposite the Government Printing Office an axle broke. Two cabs were, however, called into requisition, and the accident only caused a delay of about four minutes. The reels were soon at work, but owing to the smallness of the main, which is only 2 inches in diameter, the water pressure was very low. This matter had been brought under the notice of the Government, but no action has yet been taken. Perhaps now that a serious fire has occurred the Government will realize the necessity of taking some action which will give the people of the district a better supply. The firemen worked hard, and got the fire so well under that at 8 o'clock one reel was able to leave, and an hour later the hands were further reduced.

LATER PARTICULARS.

On Monday the fire was not wholly extinguished at the tannery owned by Messrs. Dowie at Bowden, and two reels were kept at work. Mr. Dowie. sen., was sent for at his residence in the hills about 8 o'clock, and immediately returned to Adelaide. He was on the scene of the fire during the whole night. He is thoroughly of opinion that the fire was due to accident, and that the sole leather in the pits has not been materially injured. Forty men will be thrown out of employment for some time on account of the disaster. Messrs. Dowie for several days past have been in the act, through Mr. Mackie, the insurance agent, of rearranging their insurances, so as to increase the amounts and separate the buildings, stock, and machinery under different headings, with one or more policies for each, instead of allowing the stock and property to go together as before. The old policies expired on December 21, and while the rearrangement was being settled they were held covered by the Companies. The following is a correct list of the insurances to December 21 last:— Commercial Union, £2,000 for boots and shoes, and £800 for the large drying-shed; United Australian, £1,000 for the stock-in-trade; Colonial Mutual, £500 for machinery and £500 for stock; Guardian, £600 for machinery and £2,050 for houses, mill, &c.; Colonial Mutual, £700 for ground bark; total, £8,150. The increases on the above in re-arrangement comprise £200 on a new engine, £150 on the new drying-shed, £100 on the overseer's dwelling - house, and £200 extra on the large shed; total, £650, Messrs. Dowie hold receipts for the current year's premiums, including the extras, from three of the Insurance Companies, but the fourth has not yet come to hand. The loss to Messrs. Dowie will amount to several thousand pounds, but the figures cannot be stated even approximately. Deep and widespread public sympathy is felt throughout Adelaide and the suburbs with Mr. A. Dowie and his son, who both hold a high place in the estimation of those who know them, and their sympathizers in the disaster that has occurred may be found among all classes of society.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 15 January 1886, page 6

CORONER'S INQUEST.

THE FIRE AT MR DOWIE'S TANNERY.

On Thursday morning the City Coroner held an inquest at the Oddfellows' Arms, Bowden, on the fire which destroyed the tannery belonging to Mr. A. Dowie. of Rundle-street, at Bowden on January 3. Mr. W. Johns was foreman of the Jury. Mr. Yuill watched the proceedings on behalf of the Insurance Companies, and Mr. Dowie appeared on his own behalf. Inspector Bee conducted the examination. Corporal Booth deposed as to the sounding of the Gas works firehorn on the evening of the fire. He proceeded to the tannery, and found the place in flames. Considered the fire started in the carriers' shop. Alexander Dowie, tanner, of Bowden, said he was proprietor of the tannery, and was at Mount Lofty when the fire occurred. His foreman rode up and informed him of it, and he came to Bowden about an hour subsequently, but found that everything was destroyed. He had not the slightest idea as to the origin of the fire, and knew of nothing in the large shed which would be likely to start it. There was nothing but leather there. Had heard that the men were in the habit of smoking, but had never seen them do so. On several occasions had cautioned them to be careful about fire. Was on the premises the previous day. There were forty or fifty bales of leather there for export. Told the foreman and clerk these would have to go away on the Monday. Gave these instructions because he was concerned about it, as the bales were not insured. The value of the leather would be between £2,000 and £3,000. There were glass windows in the shed — two or three on each side. The only suggestion he could make as to the origin of the fire was that the rays of the sun were focussed through the window. Was insured as follows : — Guardian Company. £2,300 on the buildings ; Commercial Union, £1,000 on the main building ; £1,000 on the merchandise in the main building, £500 on the store, and £400 on the bark in No. 12 ; Colonial Mutual, £700 on bark in No. 12, £1,000 on merchandise in No. 15 and storeroom ; City of London, £1,300 on machinery; total, £8,200. Thought his loss was between £7,000 and £8,000. Did not think the bootmakers' strike had caused any ill-will against him. No one could get into the premises on Sunday without the clerk knowing it. It was the practice in tanneries for a man to attend on Sundays to look at the leather. One of the men was there on the day of the fire. Did not know whether he was a smoker or not. Even if the man had smoked in the morning in the sheds he knew of nothing which if it caught fire would smoulder until 6 o'clock in the evening. His reasons for being underinsured were— (1) because there were 50 bales of leather ready for export; (2) because through the bootmakers' strike there was an extra accumulation of leather; and (3) because an insurance agent who had attended to his insurance business for very many years was instructed by his son to insure £3,000 worth of boots for £2,000, but neglected to do so. John Percy Matthewman, clerk for Mr. Dowie, who resided on the premises, said his attention was called to the fire at 5.50 on the Sunday evening by his son. Smoke was coming from the north-western portion of the shed upstairs. There was no fire underneath. A man named Conroy was the last on the premises about 11 o'clock on the same morning. He had the keys, but returned them. No one could get into the room where the fire occurred without witness's knowledge. The fire was situated in the carriers' working department, where a quantity of grease, oil, tallow, and black colouring (vegetable black and oil, a dangerous material) were kept. Had noticed a quantity of rough rags saturated with grease on the tables and floor occasionally, and had picked up matches from the floor of this room. There were windows to the west and north of the shed, and the rays of the setting sun would strike these. A number of ginger-ale bottles were thrown about the floor by the men. Had seen as much as a sackful of greasy rags under the table. On leaving his house, when called to the fire, smoke only was to be seen, but shortly after the flames burst out with a rush from the shed. His idea was that the fire was caused by the rays of the sun, Vegetable

black would fire spontaneously, and water would ignite it. Oil mixed with vegetable black was dangerous, but oil itself would not cause it to burn. Did not think the sun's rays would fire the vegetable black and oil. About two casks full of vegetable black was kept in the engine-room. Michael Conroy, sole-leather finisher, employed at the tannery, said he left the premises about 11 on the morning of the fire. Securely locked the place when leaving. Was not a smoker, and did not strike a match while on the premises. Saw nothing un-usual, and noticed no smell of fire. Had not seen matches carelessly used, though the men smoked all over the premises. The key was hung up outside Matthewman s house. Anybody could have obtained it. It was, however, not always kept there. Did not see Matthewman, either when he obtained the key or when he hung it up before leaving. August Frederick William Elix, engineer at the tannery, was last on the premises on the Saturday at 1 o'clock, when he locked the engine-house and took the key away with him. The fire from the engine was well covered before he left, and even if a spark had escaped it could not have got into the shed where the fire started. His duties did not take him upstairs, and he had no idea how the fire started. William Blight, Manager of the tannery, said he left the premises about 2 o'clock on the Saturday afternoon. First saw the fire about five minutes to 6 on the Sunday evening. It was burning in the large shed, through the roof of which the flames burst. Was last in the shed with Mr. Dowie on the Saturday afternoon. The shed contained leather, boots, and the curriers' materials and tables, which were situated in the western end of the room. There could only have been a small quantity of vegetable black in the shed. He knew of nothing that would spontaneously ignite. Greasy rags were not allowed to remain in the shed. The curriers took up as much vegetable black only as they required at a time. After the men had used oily rags they were cleared away by the boy who cleaned up the place on Saturday after noon. Had seen the men with lucifers on the premises, but could not say he had seen matches thrown about the floor. Went to Mount Lofty and informed Mr. Dowie of the fire. It was the usual custom in curriers' shops to use slush lamps, but the use of such an article in this tannery had been forbidden. Could not suggest anything that would start the fire. Knew vegetable black was dangerous, and on this account it was kept in a cool place away from the damp, because it would catch fire if kept in a damp spot. Oil was supposed to prevent vegetable black igniting. If there was any of the latter in the currier s room it would be in a small vessel and mixed with oil. On the Wednesday before the fire the thermometer registered 100° in the shed. Some lemonade bottles in the curriers' department were stored under the tables. Was of opinion that the tannery was wilfully set on fire, although he had never heard any ill will expressed towards Mr. Dowie. All the men in the tannery were well satisfied. By Mr. Dowie— Did not believe there was a bagful of oily rags under the curriers' tables, as stated by Matthewman. The boy was told to clear them away regularly. By the Court —Had told the men to be careful about smoking, and that Mr. Dowie would rather they did not smoke at all, but they had never been ordered not to do so. Matthewman was recalled, and said the only way a person could get the keys was by going through two gates. The keys were not kept hanging up outside all night. Saw Conroy leave the place on Sunday morning. No one could get the keys without his know-ledge. Speaking of the rags, he said he did not refer to any particular day, but was speaking generally, and had positively seen as much as a bagful at one time under the tables. John Marshall Reed, Captain of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, said he was called to the fire a few minutes to 6 o'clock, and arrived on the scene in about five minutes. The shed was ablaze. There was a poor pressure of water at the time. With a better pressure more of the property could have been saved. Nos. 1 and 2 Reels from Adelaide, the North Adelaide, and Norwood reels were soon on the

spot, and the Government hose was brought by the turncock. Had the fire under control in about an hour. Annie Whiteman, married woman, wife of Mr. Dowie's trolley-driver, saw the fire burning upstairs in the long shed a little before 6 o'clock. She heard a noise in the shed about three-quarters of an hour before the fire started, and thought some person was working there. Her daughter also heard the noise, which was similar to that made by the men when working there. Had no doubt as to where the noise was coming from. Had never heard any ill-feeling expressed towards Mr. Dowie. Matthewman was recalled again in consequence of the evidence given by Mrs. Whiteman, and said that no one could have got into the premises without his knowledge. The keys were in his possession from 2 o'clock till the hour of the fire, during which time he was not off the premises. Had often heard a noise similar to that described by Mrs. Whiteman. On one Sunday to satisfy him-self he searched the premises, and found that it was caused by some loose iron which was hanging from the side of the drum shed, and moved with the slightest current of air. This was the only way he could account for the noise. Had no notice of dismissal prior to the fire, but on the Monday after the fire re-ceived information from Dowie through the manager that he was to hand over the keys and consider himself disengaged from that time. Had often heard the noise referred to when the machinery had stopped of an evening. On the night of the fire this noise was spoken of to Dowie, who was satisfied with witness's explanation as to its origin. Joseph Barry, clerk in the Government employ, was present during the progress of the fire, but could give no opinion as to its origin. He heard a noise in the tannery about ten minutes before the outbreak, and thought some of the men were present turning the leather over. He previously heard a similar noise on Sunday mornings, but would not attribute it to loose iron swinging about. Albert Rimes, butcher, living opposite the tannery, saw the fire at its first stage, and went to the gasworks to request that the alarm might be given by the whistle. Mathia Russel, married woman, daughter of Mrs. Whiteman, corroborated that witness's evidence. Leonard Whiteman, Mr. Dowie's driver, said he was in the yard at 8 o'clock on Sunday morning, but not afterwards until the fire occurred. He gave further evidence in the same strain as that given by his wife and daughter. Arthur Herbert (a boy of 14 years, who could neither read nor write) said he was employed at the tannery to clean up the place. On the Saturday before the fire he put the sweepings, which comprised leather shavings, oily rags, and other materials, in a bag, which he left upstairs, being in the habit of leaving the bag there until it was full. He added that a youth told him that Michael Doherty, a sole-leather finisher in the tannery, was seen on the premises on Sunday, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The Coroner sent for Doherty, who shortly afterwards arrived, and denied that he was at the tannery at all on Sunday, and offered to produce other proof to that effect if required. He lived in Adelaide, and knew nothing of the fire until he was on his way to work on Monday morning. Michael Connole, apprenticed to Mr. Dowie, said he told Herbert that he had heard that Doherty was in the yard on the afternoon of Sunday. Frederick Blight was his informant. Frederick Blight was then called, and said that a Mrs. King told him that one of the men was seen near the tannery as stated. In Court he said that to his knowledge Doherty went to the tannery every Sunday afternoon, and Conroy in the mornings. Under these circumstances he concluded it was Doherty who was seen there. The Jury after about half an hour's deliberation returned a verdict to the effect that, the fire was caused by the heat of the sun's rays igniting some inflammable material in the curriers' department. A rider was added expressing sympathy with Mr. Dowie, and observing that the keys of the establishment were not kept in such safe custody as they should have been. The

Jury also mentioned that the evidence of Frederick Blight was calculated to unduly injure Doherty, one of the employe's in the tannery.

Sunday 17th January. Fire at Hindmarsh.

Fire at John Reid & Sons' tannery at the corner of Adam and Manton streets, Hindmarsh.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 18 January 1886, page 3

Fire at the Victoria Tannery, Hindmarsh.

Hindmarsh was the scene of another fire on Sunday morning. Shortly after 8 o'clock smoke was seen arising from Messrs. John Reid & Sons' tannery, but fortunately through the prompt action of the local fire brigade the damage done does not exceed £300. Messrs. Reid & Sons' tannery is situated at the corner of Adam and Manton streets, extending about 450 feet along the former and 120 feet the latter street. On that portion facing Adam-street is a shop with two floors, used for tanning and currying purposes, 300 feet in length by 28 feet in width, and about 25 feet in height to the ridge of the roof. The old part of this, which is 120 long, is about 20 feet wide, and not quite so high as the new building connected with it. The roof is of shingle, covered with galvanized iron. The walls are of brick. The walls of the new building are 180 feet long, and are connected with the old structure, being roofed with galvanized iron, and lined with matchboard. At the western end on the upper story is a bark grinding machine, under which is a room containing a hopper to receive the bark and other material after it has been ground. Adjoining this on the ground floor is another room in which ground bark is stowed, and within this in one corner is a compartment that receives the dust from the ground material, which is driven there by a fan through a galvanized iron tube. A galvanized iron pipe 6 inches in diameter also connects this compartment with a wooden receptacle in the opposite corner of the store-room immediately above. The upper receptacle receives dust that does not settle in the compartment below, and that which is of light substance is further conveyed through another pipe of 6 inches in diameter through the adjoining drying-room into the chimney stack, which forms part of the partition to that part of the building used for sole leather and other purposes. It is conjectured that a spark of fire might have been blown down the pipe connecting the chimney with the dust receptacle, and ignited the dust deposited therein.

H. Brenner, the first one to notice the fire, was on the premises at 7.50 a.m. on Sunday for the purpose of turning the leather. Smelt something burning. He walked through the line of buildings, and on approaching the storeroom saw a quantity of smoke. On entering he noticed flames arising from the corner where the dust receptacle was. He, with the assistance of W. Ware and J. Howard, closed the doors, gave the alarm, and applied themselves vigorously to prevent the fire from spreading by throwing buckets of water on the building. A number of people quickly assembled and assisted to remove material and stop the progress of the flames. Within a brief space of time the local volunteer fire brigade arrived in charge of Captain J. M. Reid (a member of the firm), and with "two deliveries" subdued the flames just before the arrival of Superintendent Salter with No. 1 Adelaide Brigade. It was fortunate that between the storeroom—to which the fire was confined—the portion of the shop on the eastern side and the barkmill room on the western side there were 9-inch brick partition walls extending to the roof ridge. Had it not been for this the whole place would have been gutted very quickly, as the upper portion of the building was built chiefly of wood. Within 26 feet of the western end were 800 tons of un-ground bark, valued at £7,000, which were uninsured, and within a short distance was Messrs. J. King &

Son's timber-yard, which abuts on the tannery on the northern side. In the storeroom special tanning material was kept, and it contained two tons of valonia, four tons of myralabones, sixty-five cases of other material, and some sundries. This was all more or less injured or destroyed. Nothing remained of the dust receptacle, and the flames issuing through the opening in the wall, through which the pipe went, charred the matchboard lining in the drying-room. Other damage was also done. Ambrose Balfort, the engineer at the tannery, stated that he banked up the fire at 1 o'clock on Saturday, and on examination on Sunday morning in the presence of our re-porter found that it had not been tampered with. The engine-room was in the same condition as when he left it on Saturday.

Mr. P. McG. Reid, one of the members of the firm, informed our representative that he, his brother (Captain J. M. Reid, of the fire brigade,) the coachman, and engineer were on the premises up to twenty minutes past 11 o'clock on Saturday night, and everything was perfectly safe when they left. Extra pre-caution had been exercised during the excessive hot weather in watching the buildings, and a watchman had looked after the premises at night, although on Saturday night no one had been so engaged. The gates were locked at twenty minutes past 11 o'clock, and no person could gain access to the building. No oil, grease, or vegetable black was stored in the main building. These articles were kept in a separate place in the other side of the yard, about 60 feet from the main building, and 100 feet from where the fire occurred. He could not account for the origin of the fire, excepting that a spark of fire from the chimney stack might have descended the pipe that led from it to the receptacle for dust in which the fire was discovered. There were, however, no indications of fire in this tube excepting at the end that entered the dust box. He had the greatest confidence in his employes, and was not aware that any one had any ill-will towards the firm. The loss would be about £300. The whole of the premises were insured in the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Office for £4,000, and he believed, speaking from memory, the long shop was covered to the extent of £1,500. The stack of wattle bark, valued at £7,000, was uninsured. Had it not been for the partition walls separating the store-room in which the fire was concentrated from other parts of the building the whole of the shop would have been destroyed. The dust receptacle, which was about 8 feet by 6 feet, was cleaned out on Saturday prior to commencing grinding of myralabones, which took place at a quarter to 1 o'clock. The engine stopped at 1 o'clock, and it was not possible for more than a bucketful of dust to have accumulated in the time. Nine men would be thrown out of employment in consequence of the fire until the damage done was set right, Mr. John Reid, the principal of the firm, who re-sides at the Grange, arrived shortly after the fire had been extinguished. He could not assign any reason for the fire. He valued the entire premises and stock at nearly £20,000.

A word of praise is due to the members of the local volunteer fire brigade, whose prompt action was the means of saving much valuable property.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 19 January 1886, page 2

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

TO THE EDITOR,

Sir — Our respected townsman, Mr. J. Vardon, recently gave you an account of the formation and organization of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Yesterday they were subjected to various comments, invariably in their favour and against the Insurance

Companies, Reference was specially made to their saving "The Woodman" at Burford's fire, their active exertions at Dowie's fire, and of their saving to the Insurance Companies interested some thousands of pounds at the Victoria Tannery yesterday morning, I am surprised to learn that voluntary activity is quite ignored by our various Insurance Companies. Is voluntary agency a factor in the calculations of profit and loss in the Directorates of our various Insurance Companies? There is much human nature in man. But if such calculations are made, it seems to me a sordid calculation on one of the best traits of human character, and to my mind wholly unworthy high-minded and upright men. Most of our brigade are dependent on their weekly wage. That they have shown much ardour in the work they have generously imposed on themselves is self-evident. But, Sir, such ardour cannot last if unsupported by these who receiving most benefit from their exertions totally ignore them. It is impossible for men so circumstanced to give their time, labour, and money for any length of time, whilst those who receive the whole benefits of their exertions will not give one penny for wear and tear of accoutrements and apparatus. I make these remarks as verbum sap.

I am, Sir, &c., HINDMARSH.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 21 January 1886, page 3

THE LATE FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

An enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the outbreak of the fire which recently took place at Messrs. John Reid & Sons' tannery, Hindmarsh, was held at the Tanners' Arms Hotel, Hindmarsh, on Wednesday, January 20. Mr. Thomas Whittaker was foreman of the jury. Inspector Bee conducted the examination of the witnesses on behalf of the police.

Harry Bennier, employed by Messrs. John Reid & Sons, said that on Sunday morning last he went on the premises on business at about ten minutes to 8 o'clock. On entering the yard noticed a smell of fire. Saw smoke issuing from the dustbox, and soon afterwards saw that the building containing the same was on fire. Gave the alarm of fire to the stable man, who went for Mr. John Reid, that gentle man arriving at the spot in a very short time. In the meantime closed all the doors and other openings, and with the assistance of some other men poured buckets of water on the fire, which kept it in check until the reels came. These arrived in a short time and soon extinguished the flames. Knew nothing as to what was the origin of the fire. Joseph Howard and William Ware gave evidence in a similar strain to that of previous witness. Andrew Balford, engineer, in the employ of Messrs. John Reid & Sons, said that he left his work at about 1 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. Banked up the fire and shut down the damper. Was in the yard again at about five minutes past 6 o'clock, and also at about twenty minutes past 11 o'clock later on during the same day. Opened the furnace on Sunday morning after the occurrence of the fire. Thought that the fire probably arose from a spark passing down the pipe leading from the chimney stack to the dustbox and igniting the latter.

Peter McGregor Reid, one of the partners in the firm of John Reid & Sons, after giving similar evidence to previous witnesses, said that he was insured in the Colonial Mutual Insurance Company for £1,500 on the main building, £500 on the stock therein, £500 on machinery, and £2,000 on the stock in the other buildings on the premises, in all £4,000. Wattle bark to the value of £7,000 was not insured. Attached no importance whatever to the statement which had been made as to a paper having been picked up which had written on it, "Please

set fire to Reid's tannery." Thought that if an iron had been substituted for a wooden dustbox the fire might not have taken place. No vegetable black was kept in the building in which the fire originated.

John Marshall Reid, one of the partners in the firm of John Reid & Sons, and also captain of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, said that he received notice of the outbreak of the fire from the stableman in the firm's employ shortly before 8 o'clock on Sunday morning. Witness had the same opinion about the paper said to have been picked up by a boy as his brother. After giving a few orders to the men with reference to extinguishing the flames, witness arrived with the reel that put out the fire in about a quarter of an hour. Robert Worthley, a small boy, aged twelve years, said that he picked up a piece of paper in West-street, Brompton, at about half-past 5 o'clock on Friday evening, which had written on it the words, "Please set fire to Reid's tannery." It was signed "Davidis Boys," with the latter word written upside down. The paper was two inches long by one and a half inches wide, was folded up and was clean. Tore it into pieces near the place at which he picked it up, and told no one of his discovery until Sunday morning, after the fire, when he informed his uncle and a person named Benson of what he had found. The paper marked A (produced) had writing on it similar to that on the piece which witness found. William Booth, corporal of police, said that on Monday evening he questioned the boy Worthley as to the paper mentioned by him in his evidence. After carefully searching the place on Tuesday morning at which the lad said that he found the paper discovered no traces of the same.

The coroner summed up and the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the fire was caused by burning soot passing down the chimney stack through a pipe leading to a dustbox, which, being thus ignited, set the building on fire, and that this was quite accidental. The jurors also stated that they attached no importance to the statement of the boy Worthley, and that in their opinion great credit was due to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade for their energetic efforts to subdue the fire.

[Wednesday 3rd March, Gas explosion at the Woodville Railway Station.](#)

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 4 March 1886, page 3

EXPLOSION AT WOODVILLE RAILWAY STATION.—Between 8 and 9 o'clock on Wednesday evening a serious explosion of gasoline occurred at the Woodville Railway Station by which a porter named Patrick O'Brien was severely burnt, and considerable damage was done to the overway bridge. Trooper Sharp was dispatched from the Port. It appears that O'Brien was pouring some gasoline into a gasometer when it suddenly exploded, burning him very badly. The apparatus was situated underneath the overway bridge. The bridge caught fire, and the steps connected with the up platform were burnt out. No one was near, but O'Brien called out that he was burning. The officer in charge of the station, named McCrae, threw some water over O'Brien, who was at once removed and attended to. Mr. McNiell, the Traffic Inspector, and the police from Hindmarsh went down to Woodville. O'Brien did not have a light close to him, and the cause of the explosion is unexplained. There was, however, a lamp some distance away.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 5 March 1886, page 3

GAS EXPLOSION AT WOODVILLE.

An enquiry into the cause of the gas explosion which occurred at the Woodville railway-station on Wednesday evening, and partially burnt a staircase, was opened at the station by

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11 December 2024

the acting city coroner (Mr. J. Williams) on Thursday, Mr. D. Pyne was foreman of the jury. Franklin McRae, railway porter, Woodville, said that he was on duty from 2 o'clock in the afternoon till 12 midnight on the day of the explosion. At about five minutes past 8 o'clock he heard a report. At once stepped out on to the platform, and from there saw the boy O'Brien running across the rails with his coat on fire. Ran to him, and with the assistance of Poore, the telegraph operator, extinguished the flames. O'Brien's face and arms were very much burnt. Having first attended to the boy witness next assisted to put out the fire, which was burning at the staircase leading to the overway bridge, Noticed the lamp which the lad had been using close to the door on the outside of the room in which the gasoline was kept. Charles Poore, jun., telegraph operator, said that O'Brien, who was taken home as soon as possible, told him that he was in the room when the explosion occurred. Had seen the boy smoking, and saw him with a lighted lamp about two or three feet from the door of the room on Wednesday evening. O'Brien's duties were to attend to the passenger train on the north side of the platform, to light the signal and the platform lamps, and to make the gas. George Baker, stationmaster, deposed that the gasoline engine, which had now been used for three years, was attended to by two boys, O'Brien being one of them. It was usual for the lad who was on duty in the morning to put the gasoline in the condenser, but sometimes the liquid was all used by the evening, and a fresh quantity had to be placed in the condenser. Great care should always have been taken not to leave the condenser open near a lighted lamp. Printed instructions, amongst which was one condemning this practice, were hanging on the side of the room for the use of the boys, who were well acquainted with the right way in which to do their work. Had seen O'Brien on the morning of that day, and when he asked him how the accident happened the boy said that he was putting some gasoline into the condenser when he noticed that the former would not run into the funnel but bubbled up and appeared more like a gas than a liquid. He was putting the tin which contained the gasoline on to the floor when the explosion took place. When the boy told witness that the gas was so light witness surmised that this was caused by the heat of the weather, and that the gas escaped through the door of the engine-house, which was open, and thence proceeded through the lamp ventilators into the lighted lamp, and thus took fire. Walter Richards, signalman, said that O'Brien told him that the explosion occurred on the outside of the room, and on this happening the boy tried to put the tin which he held down, and endeavored to get out, but the wind shut the door, and whilst he was trying to open the same he was burnt in the manner already described. At this stage the inquest was adjourned for a fortnight to allow of O'Brien's evidence being taken.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Monday 12 April 1886, page 7

THE WOODVILLE GASOLINE EXPLOSION.

The enquiry into the gas explosion at the Woodville station on March 3 was concluded by (Mr. J. Williams) at Kilkenny, on Thursday, when the evidence of Patrick O'Brien, the railway porter who was injured by the explosion, and had hitherto been unable from that cause to attend the in-quest, was taken. He stated that on the evening of March 3, after attending to the 7.58 p.m. train, he went to put some gasoline into the generator, as the gas was burning badly, and the lamps would have gone out unless the supply had been replenished. He had a lamp with him, without the light from which it would have been impossible for him to have filled the generator. He left the lamp on the platform about a yard from the door of the gashouse. The gasoline would not run into the machine, but was boiling, and ran over the floor, from which it evaporated. When putting the can on the floor an explosion took place

from the lamp outside, and another followed in the gashouse. His clothes caught fire, and he ran across to the other side of the station, where he received assistance, and the fire on his clothes was extinguished, but not before he had been badly burnt on the head, neck, hands, and knees. There was a regulation posted in the gas house that the machine should be filled during the day. He had often filled it before, and it generally required filling about every six days. He had expected that the gas would have lasted that night. Sometimes in hot weather, as on the day of the accident, the gasoline bubbled up and would not run into the machine. He sometimes found, the tins of gasoline very warm. There was nothing in the old machine which indicated the quantity of gas it contained. The coroner in summing up pointed out the danger that existed in the use of gasoline, which it had been stated boiled at 100°, and was boiling on this occasion when O'Brien attempted to pour it into the generator. The jury, after a retirement of about half an hour, brought in a verdict that the fire had been caused by the gasoline being overheated, through which the gas escaped, and coming into contact with the lamp, caused an explosion. They expressed the opinion that the porter, O'Brien, was simply doing his duty, and was in no way to blame; adding as a rider that the Government were to blame for keeping gasoline in such a place, and that if they persisted in lighting the station that way, some one should be appointed who understood the nature of gasoline and the method of working the machine.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 12 July 1886, page 5

Fire at HINDMARSH.—Just before 10 o'clock on Saturday evening Mr. T. Moody reported to Mr. J. Reid, of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, that flames could be seen coming through the roof of some premises in Adam-street. Mr. Reid at once went for the reel, and had the alarm on the S.A. Gas Company's premises sounded. In the meantime Mr. Strudwick, foreman to Messrs, Mofflin & Wilcox, discovered the fire in a shed where some hundreds of dried sheepskins were stored, and he, with the assistance of others, succeeded in getting the fire under, so that the services of the brigade were not required. The wall is old and loosely mortared, and the general opinion is that an adjacent flue was the cause of the fire. A plumber was at work repairing part of the roof in the forenoon, but Mr. Strudwick reports that the workman used no fire. The flames originated at the bottom of the stack of skins, and close to the wall referred to. A large number of skins were turned out and water was thrown on them, but beyond the labour of drying them the damage is comparatively slight.

1887

Saturday 19th February. Fire at Thebarton.

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 26 February 1887, page 8

FIRE AT THEBARTON.

An investigation was made by the city coroner on Monday into the circumstances surrounding a fire which totally destroyed two haystacks belonging to Mr. R. Hyman, at Thebarton, on Saturday morning. Mr. J. Tolly was chosen foreman of the jury. Robt. Hyman, the owner of the stacks, stated that they contained 104 tons of hay by measurement. There was besides a small stack.

There was a post-and-rail fence surrounding the stacks. Valued the hay in the enclosure at £450; this was at the rate of £4 per ton. There was a thoroughfare through the pad-dock, but never heard of anyone trespassing in the enclosure itself. Last visited the haystacks about a

week ago, when everything appeared safe. Was insured in the Imperial Insurance Company to the extent of £250. Was not aware that any persons had ill-feeling against him in the district. Was of opinion that the fire was caused through some one sleeping in the stack. By Mr. Bee— The best of the hay was burnt. The ground around the enclosure was ploughed. Ronald Shearing, deputy-superintendent of fire brigades, was called at 1.52 a.m. on Saturday from the Thebarton Police-station, and arrived at the scene of the fire within 12 minutes after the call. Two stacks were burning— a large and a small one. Had 600 feet of hose, but this length was insufficient to reach from the plug to the haystack. On the arrival of the Hindmarsh reel was enabled to play upon the flames, and with a good supply of water managed to keep the fire under and save the stack, which is now standing. John Edwards, carter, said while travelling along the road at about 1.30 a.m., he first noticed the fire. Saw no one about, and immediately sent his son to the police-station. It appeared as though the little stack of sheafed hay was first on fire. Did not think the stacks could have been burning long when his attention was first called to them. Knew nothing as to the origin of the fire. Did not think any one in the neighborhood had any ill-feeling against the owner. After other evidence had been taken the jury brought forward the following verdict: — "We are of opinion that the haystacks were set on fire by some person or persons unknown, and are further of opinion that it was caused by trespassers sleeping between the haystacks. We also wish to compliment the Adelaide Brigade and the Hindmarsh reel for the prompt manner in which they arrived at the scene of the fire.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Friday 10 June 1887, page 7

HINDMARSH CORPORATION.

Thursday, June 9th. Present—The Mayor (Mr. P. B. Coglin), Crs. Gould, James, Wright, Shearing, Vardon, and King.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade applied for monetary assistance. Cr. Shearing moved, and Cr. King seconded—"That a grant of £10 be given to the brigade." Cr. Wright opposed the motion on the principle that as fire assurance companies refused to render assistance to fire brigades it would be inadvisable for the corporation to vote a sum to the brigade, as it would encourage insurance companies to be dilatory in tendering the assistance they should. Cr. Vardon said on public grounds the brigade had a claim on the council. Cr. Gould thought assistance was deserved, but the corporation funds were low. They might strike a medium by giving £5. He would, however, vote for the motion. Cr. James supported. Cr. Shearing said the insurance companies favored the townspeople by having a fire brigade in the town. The motion was carried

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 16 November 1887, page 3

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.—It is proposed by the members of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade to purchase a horsereel for the central station on the Port-road, Hindmarsh, and to establish an auxiliary station in the lower part of Bowden, where the present handreel would be placed. In a large district like Hindmarsh it is felt that too much time is lost in getting to a fire, and the measures proposed would tend to greater protection to property. Four extra members will be required by the Brigade to carry this into effect. The places of two or three members, who had to leave the district on account of work, have been filled up by capable recruits. At a drill on Tuesday evening the water pressure from the main was taken, and only registered 40 lb., and it was thought that during the hot weather this should be increased.

The public are to be invited to subscribe towards defraying the expense of the proposed alterations.

1888

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 11 January 1888, page 4

GENERAL NEWS.

On Monday evening the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, in charge of Captain J. M. Reid, tested the pressure of the water main on the south side of the Port-road, opposite the brigade station at Hindmarsh, which was 35 lb. to the square inch. A hose with a five eight nozzle was also put on the hydrant, but the stream was said to be inadequate to extinguish a fire on a two-storey building. The pressure required in case of fire to successfully combat with the flames, it was stated, should be 50 lb. to the inch or over. In the branch mains at Hindmarsh the water pressure is estimated to be less than 35 lb. to the inch. Captain Reid is anxious to be prepared for any emergency, and in this respect is supported by the residents and local town council. The brigade has recently become possessed of a small reel.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 6 February 1888, page 3

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE—The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade have purchased another reel, and placed it by permission on the premises of Mr. Champion, Adam-street, Hindmarsh, which occupies a central position amongst the various factories at that end of the town. About 300 feet of hose and other appliances are also stored ready for use at a moment's notice. It is the intention of the brigade to have another auxiliary station some where near the centre of that part of the town lying north of the Port-road, so that if a fire breaks out in that direction no time will be lost in getting to it, as would be the case now, through having to run the reel from the central station on the Port-road.

Tuesday 27th March.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 28 March 1888, page 4

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade.—On Tuesday afternoon, soon after 4 o'clock, the alarm of fire was given by the blowing of the Gasworks horn at Hindmarsh, and within a very short space of time the reel of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was en route in the direction of the fire, as indicated by the smoke which was seen rising in the direction of Mr. Caleb Peacock's tannery. On arriving at this place it was found that the fire was at the Rosebery Farm, belonging to Mr. Reeves, situate on the north side of the River Torrens. As the water service did not extend to there the brigade had to return. Much praise is due to the men for the prompt way they responded to the call, and great satisfaction is expressed by the residents at the efficiency displayed by the brigade and the systematic way in which Captain Reid gets the men together when the alarm is given.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 13 July 1888, page 4

Fire at Croydon.

On Thursday afternoon a fire occurred in the dwelling-house of Mr. J. Menzies, Croydon, which resulted in a packing-case used as a table, some bedclothes, and a window-blind being destroyed, and a window-frame injured. Mr. R. Tume first saw the fire in the bedroom, and he and Mr. J. Young burst open the door and extinguished it. Corporal Booth was promptly

on the spot, and the city fire brigade in charge of Superintendent Booker arrived a little over 10 minutes after the receipt of a telephone call from Hindmarsh. The local volunteer fire brigade were not apprised of the occurrence which accounts for their not putting in an appearance. The coroner is making enquiries.

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 21 July 1888, page 6

SUSPICIOUS FIRE AT CROYDON.

On Saturday an enquiry was held at the Hope Inn, Hindmarsh, by the city coroner (Mr. T. Ward) into the circumstances of a fire that took place on the previous Thursday in a house at Croydon occupied by Mr. James Menzies. Mr. W. Pope watched the case on behalf of the owners of the property. Christina Maud Lawson, aged 13 years, said she lived with her mother and stepfather (Mr. James Menzies). Of late she had not been happy at home, complaining of the ill-treatment she received from her stepfather. On the day of the fire she was at home by herself. Took Mr. Menzies' dinner to him at Kilkenny. Left a fire burning in the front room, which was almost extinguished, however, upon her return. Left home again almost immediately on a visit to her aunt's at Brompton. Returned at 8.30 p.m., and heard that a fire had occurred in the bedroom, some bed-clothes having been burned. Learned from her mother next day that charcoal had been found in her bed. Heard no one threaten to burn the place. Her parents were not on bad terms with one another, Mrs. Menzies attended to business in the city. The front door was unlocked, and the windows, though closed, were unbolted when she left with Mr. Menzies' dinner, but there was no sign of anyone having entered the house during her absence. Could not account for the fire. James Menzies, engine-fitter, believed the fire to have been purposely caused. Saw charcoal taken from the bed his step-daughter used. His furniture and effects were uninsured, and his loss was about £6. John Henry Hampton, police constable at Hindmarsh, said he found matches in the box containing the bedclothes which had been burned, Found burning charcoal in the flock of the bed. It might have been accidentally thrown on the bed in the excitement of extinguishing the fire. Elizabeth Menzies said her daughter and husband got on well together. Upon returning home at 5.30 p.m. was informed of the fire, for which she could not account. The box destroyed contained dirty clothes The front bedroom window was unbolted. John Quirk, police-constable, and Richard Tume, having given evidence, the coroner remarked that the circumstances were suspicions, though it was difficult to sheet home the guilt. It appeared to him to be a deliberate scheme to do Mr. Menzies harm. Mr. Menzies was uninsured, and could not be suspected of any plan for doing himself a certain injury. The coroner thought the fire might be connected with the disagreement between Mr. Menzies and his daughter, but said that the evidence was not strong enough to justify him in suggesting to the jury the person upon whom in his opinion suspicion rested. He was surprised that the Hindmarsh brigade were not informed of the outbreak before steps were taken to communicate with the city brigade. The jury, after a retirement of 20 minutes, returned the following verdict:— "We are of the opinion that the premises of Mr. J. Menzies were maliciously set on fire by some person or persons unknown. We consider that the evidence of Christina Maud Lawson was very contradictory to that of the evidence of other witnesses. We also consider that the local fire brigade was unjustly treated by not being informed of the fire before sending to Adelaide."

1889

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 18 April 1889, page 3

AT HINDMARSH.

Considerable damage has been done at this town by the overflowing of the River Torrens. The rise of the water was noticed in the evening, but no one thought of an overflow, yet in the early hours of the morning it rose rapidly, washed Mr. David Reed's bridge, which spans the river from the Riverside-road, Hindmarsh, to West Thebarton. The Stables, which are situated on the slope of the bank on the Thebarton side, are still under water, and the horses, in order to keep their heads above the water had to place their feet on the manger, and were not relieved for a considerable time until the flood had somewhat subsided, because the bridge to the stables had been cut off. The water rushing along with great force, at length overflowed the banks near the Hindmarsh Cemetery. The water rushed across Adam-street with a roaring noise, and thence into Holden, Howard, Bacon, Nile, Johns, and Richard streets. At this time Taylor's bridge was totally submersed, but it stood well, and, though the metal has been washed on and one or two of the rails have been broken, the bridge is safe for traffic. The streets now present a desolate appearance, there being a large deposit of debris about. Mr. Green's house in John-street, opposite the Cemetery, is in a dangerous condition ; the water breaking through the walls rushed into the cellar, causing the earth to subside. The house of the Rev. Mr. Pollitt is also flooded in the lower part, the back yard being full of water. The gullies in Holden-street and even in Lindsay's Circus are full of flood water. In New Hindmarsh the gullies are all filled; several houses have been with difficulty saved. Peacock's new bridge is standing, but has received a severe shaking and is knocked out of the straight. The noise of the rushing waters in the early morning awakened many persons, who hastily dressed themselves in preparation for a catastrophe. Reports are rife that two Chinamen who have been washed out have lost their lives. Mr. Reeves, of the Rosebery Dairy, is also a great sufferer, and Mr. Pegler, of Henley Beach-road, has had his dairy washed away and also part of his residence. Just below Taylor's Bridge on the Thebarton side stand the Adelaide Blanket Factory and the Adelaide Chemical Works, and here the river overflowed with terrible force. The damage to the first-named establishment is slight, having been flooded and an inch of mud deposited on the floor, and the sulphurhouse swamped and a ton and a half of coal swept across the adjoining lands, but at the Chemical Works serious loss was occasioned by the water, and not only by the water itself, but by its force, which rushed over the banks at the place like a cataract, flooding out the buildings, setting jars, casks, &c., adrift, rushing down the well and breaking down the steam-pumps, and finally through the chemical house, and carrying away between thirty and forty tons of super-phosphate. The damage was so serious the fires were all put out, and all work stopped, and Mr. Cummings, the proprietor, estimates the loss at between £700 and £800. The floodwaters taking a south-westerly direction did the most damage in Underdale. Mrs. Norman and family had to leave their house, and remove the cows for safety. A house close by collapsed altogether, and an old lady, Mrs. Pearson, was rescued previously with some difficulty, the men being up to the waist in water. The bridge known as Holbrook's is a wreck, and a great number of houses in this locality have received serious damage, and some will need rebuilding. At about 5 o'clock in the afternoon Peacock's new bridge went down on the Hindmarsh side through the bank being washed away, and there is great danger of it all being carried away if the waters rise again; and if so it will imperil Taylor's Bridge, which so far has been preserved. The Surveyor of the Hindmarsh Corporation (Mr. J. Tait) deserves credit for his efforts. When he, on Wednesday morning, came to the spot the bridge was almost blocked by logs and debris, which he caused to be judiciously set free. Many persons were fishing the logs out of the river, and one man falling in narrowly escaped

a watery grave, he being carried by the stream some distance before he was hauled ashore by the assistance of a rope which had been thrown to him. Tons of wood have been carted away, and loads of melons and such-like vegetables have been collected, the banks of the river presenting quite an animated appearance by persons so occupied. The damage done to the streets in Hindmarsh is very considerable, as the metal has been washed away in places, the foot-paths have subsided, and the fences have fallen down. The dangerous places have been barricaded. The town is in a commotion, and not the oldest resident can remember a flood of so severe a character.

Monday 30th September. Fire in Hindmarsh.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 1 October 1889, page 6

LARGE FIRE AT HINDMARSH

BURNELLS' FELLMONGERY PARTIALLY DESTROYED

Late on Monday night a fire broke out on the premises' of Messrs. G. Burnell & Co., Hindmarsh, used as a fellmongery establishment, resulting in the destruction of the front part of the building and its contents. During the past two years the efficiency of the Adelaide Fire Brigade has nipped in the bud many fires which, under the comparatively primitive fire service to which was entrusted the protection of the citizens a few years ago, would have resulted in the destruction of many thousands of pounds' worth of property. Although alarms of fire have not been infrequent the hand-reels disposed in the two principal city streets or the reels from the head station have responded so promptly to the calls made upon them that there has not been a serious fire in the city for many months. The only fire of any dimensions which has occurred in or near the city this year was the unfortunate destruction of the Coffee Palace in Hindley street last April, when Mr. F. W. Taplin lost his life. Well protected as the city undoubtedly is the suburbs unfortunately are not so well guarded, and although each has its volunteer brigade the very nature of the organization, combined with the absence of telephonic facilities, considerably handicaps the efforts of the firemen and increases the risks of residents. Several times of late years fires which have broken out in the suburbs and Port Adelaide have obtained a complete hold of the premises before the firemen have even received notice of the outbreak. This was the case at Hindmarsh on Monday night, when the premises of Messrs. G. Burnell & Co., woolstaplers, of Adam-street, Hindmarsh, were almost destroyed by fire. The firm, who have been established for about five years, carried on a fellmongery and wool-scouring business on the banks of the Torrens in a three-story brick and concrete building with a weatherboard top. During Monday business was carried on as usual, the opening of the wool season having induced a pressure of work, and it was some time after dusk before the premises were left in charge of the watchman— Simpson— who always remains on the building at night.

THE ALARM OF FIRE.

About half past 10 a neighbour noticed the glare of fire in the upper story window of Burnells' premises. He gave the alarm, and a man named Thulborn set off to give the alarm at the Bowden gasworks ; en route he met Corporal Booth and two other constables, and informed them that "Burnells' fellmongery was on fire." The alarm was given from the Brompton Gasworks. The auxiliary reel which is kept in Adam-street was the first to reach the fire, the Hindmarsh Central Reel following soon afterwards, and at about twenty minutes past 11 a reel galloped down from Adelaide under the charge of Superintendent Becker. At

the time the alarm was sounded the upper part of the building was in one blaze. The top story being composed entirely of wood burnt fiercely, and sparks flew all round, causing danger to adjoining buildings. Willing hands assisted the firemen in their endeavours to cope with the flames, but it was soon seen that there was no chance of saving the main building.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

Efforts were then directed to prevent the fire spreading. A small house adjoining, with a shingle roof, occupied by the watchman, was once in flames, but a hose being brought to bear it was got under. Water was also played on the building of Peacock & Son's woolscouring premises, and fortunately with effect, and no damage was done. The fireman at some risk still played on the main building, which was one mass of flame, the top story having fallen in and the second floor being under the devouring element. The sight was a brilliant one, thousands of sparks flying into the air as portions of the woodwork fell into the fiery furnace below. It appears that the watchman (Mr. George Simpson) called Mr. A. Burnell about half past 10 and told him the place was on fire. Mr. Burnell went at once and got the reel from the Adam-street Station, and sent word for the alarm to be given.

WHERE THE FIRE ORIGINATED.

The ground floor of the building was used for the wool-pressing process, and the press is thought to be uninjured, it being entirely made of iron. The second story is devoted to the storage of the wool after it is dried and dropped from the top story, which was occupied by the revolving cylinders used in drying the wool. At the further end of the building, in a line with the second story, is an apartment where heat is conducted from the boiler to dry the wool. It is at this spot that the fire is supposed to have originated. All the wool and combustible material on the three floors was completely destroyed, but fortunately the firemen succeeded in preventing the destruction of the valuable machinery which was on the ground floor at the back. The fire was at its height shortly before mid-night, but after that there was no fear of an extension, although the flames smouldered for some hours, and required the attention of a couple of firemen until early in the morning. The firemen worked splendidly and deserve credit for confining the fire to the premises in which it broke out, as at first the pressure of water was very low. The damage is estimated at between £2,000 and £3,000, but it is at present impossible to correctly gauge the damage done.

MR. BURNELL'S STATEMENT.

Mr. A. Burnell, the only partner at pre-sent in Adelaide, was leaning against a fence in a melancholy attitude, contemplating the ruins, when one of our reporters met him.

"Well," he said, "I cannot tell you much. I was called by Simpson, my watchman, and when I got here the place was all ablaze. I cannot account for the fire, except on the theory that it originated near the stove. Our loss will be about £3,000— that is as near as I can judge now. Oh, yes. we are insured in the Union Company of New Zealand. The amount I am not quite sure about, but I fancy it will about cover our loss."

THE FIRM.

Mr. George Burnell, the founder and senior member of the firm, is at the present time in England. He left South Australia some months ago for the purpose of disposing of the patent rights to a new wool-scouring machine invented by the firm, who have always been known for their enterprise and readiness to adopt new ideas. It is rather fortunate that the fire did

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11 December 2024

not occur a few weeks later. The wool season of 1889 has only just begun, consequently the woolscourers have not yet received heavy stocks of greasy wool. Before the end of the year the Messrs. Burnell would have had a much heavier stock, while the Messrs. Peacock & Son, whose premises adjoin, would probably have had some hundreds of bales stacked in their yards. If the fire had occurred then nothing but a miracle would have saved the wool, for the sparks from the matchboard upper story of Burnells' were blown in myriads all over Peacock's yard.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 1 October 1889, page 3

LARGE FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

Some alarm was occasioned in the city on Monday evening when it was rumored that there was an extensive fire in the neighborhood of Hindmarsh, and the statements that were made were borne credence to by a volume of fire which was seen to be lighting up the western horizon. It was ascertained after communication with the City Fire Brigade office that the conflagration was rising in the premises of Messrs. G. Burnell & Co., Adam-street, Hindmarsh, and fears were entertained that the flames would extend to the adjoining buildings. Fortunately, however, the fire was confined to the limits of Messrs. Burnell's premises. The buildings occupied by Messrs. Burnell & Co. extend from Adam-street to Torrens-road, which is on the bank of the Torrens. They were substantial throughout, and especial care was taken, so far as we can ascertain, to guard against any such contingency as a fire occurring. Mr. George Burnell, the senior partner of the firm, is now on a visit to the old country, where he is engaged in bringing under the notice of the English public a patent wool-scourer. His son, Mr. Arthur Burnell lives within a stone's throw of the establishment. The portion of the premises which has been practically destroyed was three stories in height. Behind this was the machinery, which was untouched by the flames. The fire originated in what is known as the "stove" or drying-room. This is situated between the machinery and the packing apartments. The drying process is conducted by radiating heat from the boiler, and no fire enters at all, so that it is impossible to ascribe the fire to anything having gone wrong with the ordinary operations of the establishment. The work carried on is that of wool-scouring, and there are 12 men employed. As this, is the beginning of the wool season a busy time was anticipated, and in all probability a larger number of hands would have been engaged but for the untoward incident are now chronicling. The wool for scouring is brought in at Torrens-road and sorted, then passes into the scouring machines, of which there are three, and thence goes through pneumatic tubes to the drying chamber, where there are three large patent dryers 70 feet in length and about 6 feet in diameter. This part of the premises was constructed entirely of wood; the lower portions being of brick and stone. The men knock off work at half past five o'clock, and at that time the watchman is supposed to come on duty. As a matter of fact Mr. Simpson, who acts as the watchman, states that on Monday evening he was 10 minutes before his time, and he saw nothing then to arouse his suspicions that everything connected with the premises was not all right. He states that he went into the drying-room with a lantern at 8 o'clock to light the gas. Having done so he left the place and about an hour afterwards made another inspection, when everything was all right. Subsequently on entering the room, and this must have been between, half-past 10 and 11 o'clock, he saw the wool in the drying-room alight in two places, and immediately gave the alarm. Mr. H. F. Lake, who slept on the premises, was aroused by Simpson calling out that the stove was on fire. He found that the flames had secured such a hold, that nothing could be done to prevent them from

spreading. The police were communicated with and the alarm was given at the gasworks. The local firereels were quickly on the ground, and the Adelaide reel, under the charge of Superintendent Brooker, also put in an appearance, but too late to do more than keep the flames from extending to the machinery department. Within half an hour the whole place was completely gutted. It is difficult to ascertain the real amount of damage done, but the cost of the portion of the building destroyed was we learn about £3,000. This will probably be covered by insurance.

Mr. A. Burnell, a partner in the firm, made the following statement to a representative of The Advertiser:—"We knocked off work at about half-past 5 o'clock, when all was right. The fire in the boiler, which is used, for the purpose of drying the wool, was banked in the usual fashion. Simpson, the night watchman, was in charge when the men left, and it was his duty to stay on the premises all night. I live just opposite in Holden-street, and had gone to bed, I think it was about 11 o'clock, as far as I can judge, when I got the alarm. I immediately gave notice to the fire brigade with which I am connected, and one of the Hindmarsh reels was in attendance about five minutes after I had been apprised of the fire. The flames originated in what we call the stove, that is, the room in which the wool is dried. I cannot surmise as to what was the cause of the fire, and do not think that a spark travelled from the furnace, as it would be impossible for it to do so. The bulk of the machinery is saved, the wool press, which is situated in the burnt premises, being the principal part of the plant that is injured. It, however, does not appear to have been entirely demolished. The building and stock were valued at £3,000, but if the walls are intact the damage will not amount to so much as that. We are covered by insurance, the Union Company of New Zealand having taken the risk, but I am not aware what the amount was. The premises extend from Adams street to Torrens road—the river frontage. My father is in England, and it will be an unpleasant cable that I will have to send to him to-morrow morning."

Police-Constable Curren, who was on duty in the town, stated that at 10 minutes to 11 o'clock he was informed by a person who was running in the direction of the police-station that Burnell's wool factory was on fire, and on receiving this information he at once communicated with the Adelaide and Hind-marsh fire reels. It was then about five minutes to 11 o'clock. He repaired to the scene of the fire, and found that flames were issuing from the second story windows facing Adam-street. At about 20 minutes past 11 o'clock two Hindmarsh fire reels arrived under Captain Duncan, and at once brought the hoses to play on the blazing mass, endeavoring to confine the flames to the one building, and if possible save the bulk of the machinery, which was in the adjoining building.

Superintendent Booker stated that on the arrival of the Adelaide reel he at once saw that nothing could be done but to keep the flames from spreading to the other building containing the machinery. The building at the time of his arrival was completely gutted, and the roof was off.

Mr. H. F. Lake said he slept on the premises, and was roused by the night watchman (W. Simpson), who said "The stove is on fire." On looking into the stove he found that the fire was too far advanced to prevent it from spreading. The flames spread towards the eastern side of the third story of the drying shed, where the three patent drying machines were. There was some loose wool on the second and third floor, They took out about a dozen bales of wool from the first floor, and there were about the same number destroyed. On the evening on which the fire occurred the stove where the fire originated was covered with

wool which was left to dry by the morning. Mr. Lake went on to say "We fill up the stove every evening in this manner."

On inspecting the premises this morning we find that the walls are intact, and that work will only be suspended for a few days. The whole of the property was insured at the Union Fire, Marine, and Insurance Company of New Zealand for £4,000, but the building destroyed, including the machinery, was insured for £2,000. A part of this has been reinsured. An inquest will be held at the Jolly Miller Hotel, Adam-street, Hindmarsh, on Wednesday afternoon, at 2.30.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 3 October 1889, page 3

THE HINDMARSH FIRE.

On Wednesday afternoon the City Coroner (Dr. Whittell) conducted an enquiry, at the Jolly Miller Hotel, Hindmarsh, as to the cause of the fire which occurred at Burnell and Co.'s woolscouring premises on Monday night, September 30. Mr. Booker, the Superintendent, represented the Fire Brigade Board, and Mr. C. S. Ashwin the Union Insurance Company of New Zealand. William Simpson, labourer, living in West-street, Brompton, stated that he was night watchman on the premises. He had to look after the stove, which was a drying-room built of brick, in which the wool was placed to dry. The heat came from the furnace of the boiler, one flue ran around the boiler, which was heated with wood and coals. Did not think the heat was sufficient to set fire to anything. Generally carried a lamp with a round glass globe, and on the night in question he was carrying it. Never had occasion to relight it on the premises. Gas was kept alight when he was on duty, and on Monday evening he lit the gas from the lamp, and then blew it out. The floors were of iron. Went into the stove about 7 p.m., taking the lamp in with him. Lit the gas with it, and then turned the wool about. After he had done this he turned the gas down. At 8 o'clock he went back into the stove and repeated his previous action. After turning the gas low he started cleaning the machines. Then he had his supper, and about 10.30 or 10.45 went back into the stove and saw there was a fire in the top of the boiler in two places. The wool was burning. His impression was the fire was passing from the stove into the packing shed, and not the reverse. Then gave the alarm. Could give no opinion as to the origin of the fire. He did not smell anything like wool burning, nor saw any smoke on the visit to the room previous to the fire; Arthur Burnell, jun., partner of the firm, deposed that he resided opposite to the premises. Was alarmed by Simpson about a quarter to 11. Ran and got the Hindmarsh reel, and called a fireman. Aided by Lake played on the water. The brigade then came to the scene. Thought the fire was possibly cause by grass seeds dropping on to the wall, and thence on to a brick flue, and there becoming so heated as to take fire. Had known other cases in which the fire appeared to originate in the same way. In some kinds of wool the seeds were very numerous, even after washing, and they became detached from the wool in the shaking of it. The heat in the stove would be from 150° to 180". Believed the fire began in the stove. Smoking was strictly prohibited, and Simpson had never been known to do so on the premises. The premises and machinery were insured to a total of £4,000 for the whole plant. The wool was not insured. Estimated his loss at about £1,500, without reckoning the wool. The place had been insured for £3,000 for three years, but two months ago an extra £1,000 was placed on it. This was on account of additions to the place. The firm was in no pecuniary difficulties. To Mr. Booker—Believe that if all the wool on the iron floor in the stove had been alight and water had been sprinkled over it immediately it would have put the flames

out. The stove was a room 30 ft. by 20 ft. Henry Francis Lake, employee sleeping on the premises, stated that he felt confident that a bucket of water would have been of no use. He thought the fire originated from the boiler. James Duncan, Captain of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade, stated after the fire he examined the place, but could not form any idea of where it began, nor had he been able to form an opinion as to the cause of the fire. There was a pressure of water of about 40 lb. The reels were at work at from eleven to fourteen minutes after the alarm. The Jury found no evidence to show how the fire originated. They recommended the use of thermometers in stove houses, and added a rider that great praise was due to firemen for their promptness in preventing the spread of the fire to the machinery department and adjoining premises.

1890

From the Sands and McDougalls Directory for 1890.

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Port Road, Adelaide side of the Land of Promise Hotel with James Duncan as Captain.



*State Library of South Australia - Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh [B 35262] Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade with a fire hose reel.
Approximately 1890.*

This building on the Port Road at Hindmarsh was sold, and the listing in the Sands & McDougall's South Australian Directory for 1895 shows Jesse Stead as a saddlers and harness maker in that location.

South Australian Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1895), Saturday 1 February 1890, page 12

The Week

On Friday afternoon a small fire took place in one of the back rooms of a four-roomed cottage occupied by Mr. R. Hastie, Brompton Park, but through the prompt exertions of the neighbors the flames were extinguished with a few buckets of water before much damage was done. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, in charge of Captain Duncan, were on the scene eight minutes after the alarm was given to the local police.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 10 December 1890, page 6

Mr. T. Magarey has presented to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade one of Shand, Mason, & Co.'s manual fire engines, which is capable of throwing a stream of water 80 ft. high. The members of the brigade complain that the water pressure at Hindmarsh is not sufficiently strong to enable them to cope with a fire of any size, but this difficulty will now be overcome. The superintendent of the brigade (Mr. J. M. Reid) intends having the engine put in thorough working order before it is placed in the brigade station in Adam-street, where a small hand reel will also be kept. It is intended to raise the strength of the brigade from nine to fifteen members.

1891

September –The station on the corner of Drayton and Ninth Street was moved to Adam Street and a shed was placed next to the Land of Promise Hotel

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 14 January 1891, page 3

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

The Volunteer Fire Brigade of the Town of Hindmarsh was formed in 1884, about the time when the fire fiend was so busy in the city and suburbs. The brigade consisted of eight members, and they by voluntary subscriptions purchased a firereel and the necessary appliances. This reel was housed in the central part of the town on the Port-road. Later on a fire or two occurred in Adam-street, where several large manufactories are situated, and another reel was obtained and stationed in that locality. Besides this, in the western part of the town a box with hosing and appliances has been fixed ready for use in case of fire. Recently Mr. T. Magarey presented to the brigade a manual fire engine, and on the condition that the brigade is in existence for three years from date it will become their property. To accommodate this valuable and most useful machine labour has been offered to build a shed, four brick manufacturers have arranged to supply bricks, and the other necessary materials are also forthcoming, while the loan of land on which to erect the engine-house is also volunteered, so that it will be provided free of cost. This last acquisition, with the reels and appliances previously possessed, places Hindmarsh in the position of being the best protected district from fire outside Adelaide. The brigade have 1,200 ft. of hosing, 1,000 ft. being canvas and 200 ft. leather, five lengths of ladders, and the necessary standpipes, buckets, &c. The men have shown consistent enthusiasm, and under their captain, Mr. J. M. Reid, have maintained a high state of efficiency. Their services have been required at about a dozen fires, and they have always given a good account of them-selves. A letter from the late Mr. Salter, Superintendent of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, complimenting them and thanking them for their assistance at the fire at Burford's premises, Grenfell-street, Adelaide, is highly prized by them. The brigade now consists of nine men, and it is intended to increase the number to fifteen, and with this in view the brigade has been partly reorganised, Mr. Reid being appointed Superintendent, Mr. J. Duncan captain, and Mr. R. B. Scarce first lieutenant. On Tuesday evening a trial of the fire-engine was made under Captain Duncan and gave every satisfaction, and it is stated that by its means water can be thrown 120 ft. high. The water pressure of the district has often been complained of, and the benefit of the machine will be appreciated. The water pressure only averages about thirty-six pounds, and at certain hours of the day is very low, and in case of fire proves ineffective to throw the fluid any great distance; but by the aid of the manual, with its two 7-in. pumps, the highest building in the town can be reached.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 30 January 1891, page 3**HINDMARSH CORPORATION AND THE FIRE BRIGADE.**

On Thursday evening a special meeting of the Hindmarsh Corporation was held to consider the best system of protecting the town from fire and the constitution of the local fire brigade. Mr. J. M. REID, Superintendent of the Local Fire Brigade, attended, and gave a history of the brigade, which he said had been established over six years. Previously the town was unprotected from fire. The first year the Corporation had supplemented the amount collected by £20, and had each year voted a sum towards its maintenance. The total receipts since its formation had been £305, £212 12s. 4d. had been expended in plant, and the working expenses had been £38 12s. 5d. The latter item included £11 paid for labour at the fire at the Bowden Tannery. They had a balance in the Bank of £45 15s. 3d., and this they intended to expend in fitting out additional men and in the purchase of more appliances. It was intended to increase the strength to fifteen, and also to have a reel stationed in Brompton; Ethelbert-square was the site thought most convenient. This reel would be of great service, from the fact that quickness in getting to a fire in its early stage was of the first importance, and they had now to supplement a manual fire engine, but to take this any distance horse traction would be required. In reply to a question Mr. REID said that the building in Lindsay Circus would do well for the engine-house, and also that there would not be any trouble in getting volunteers, but though this was so, they felt that they could not afford that protection that a permanent brigade could, and it was a question which, must be decided by the Corporation. They had applied for registration under the new Fire Brigades Act. If it was decided that the best protection would be a permanent brigade the volunteers could, he believed, act as auxiliaries. The cost would be greater. He had spoken to Superintendent Booker on the question, and it was thought the Corporation would have to pay about £60 per annum under the compulsory system. His WORSHIP said the brigade deserved the thanks of the town for their public spirit and for the efficiency they had displayed. The fact that they had only spent £17 per year on themselves spoke for itself. He believed the town was quite satisfied to remain as they were, though it was evident the Corporation would have to do more for them than they had in the past. Some discussion took place, and on the motion of Councillor BROOKER, M.P., it was resolved that the Mayor wait upon Superintendent Booker and the Chairman of the Fire Brigades Board for the purpose of getting information on the question, and report the result to the Council. It was stated that Mr. P. B. Coglein, J.P., had offered through the Town Clerk a piece of land 30 x 90, situate in Taylor-street, Brompton Park, if required for the purpose of erecting a fire station. The offer was received with approval. In reply to Councillor Ralph, Mr. REID said in the event of a permanent. brigade being appointed the fire-engine under the present agreement would have to be returned, as the condition was that the brigade should be in existence for three years.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 6 February 1891, page 3**HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.**

At the meeting of the Hindmarsh Corporation on Thursday evening the mayor (Mr. J. Vardon) reported the result of his interview with Superintendent Booker in connection with the local fire brigade. His worship said that if the corporation came under the new Act they would have to contribute two ninths of the aggregate cost of the maintenance of a brigade in the district, and considering the importance of the locality, which was studded with

factories of all descriptions, the council would have to expend about £150. Mr. Booker instanced the Port Adelaide Corporation, which paid two-ninths of £800 annually for a proper and efficient brigade. For this sum a captain, four firemen, horse, reels, and stations alarms were provided. If Hind-marsh were brought under the Act Mr. Booker thought he would have to adopt a similar scheme, considering the importance of the place. A very important point was raised if they failed to avail themselves of the provisions of the Act. If a large fire broke out and the City Brigade were telephoned for, under clause 19 the proprietor of the establishment when the conflagration occurred would be liable for heavy charges, which were minutely specified in the schedule. Superintendent Booker placed but very little reliance on volunteer institutions. He, however, acknowledged that they had studied the interests of the municipality, and were always at their post ready to render services in the past. Their brigade would, of course, be placed on a different footing by being under the new Act, as officers and men would all be subservient to one permanent head from the central station. How this proposal would meet with the approval of the volunteer brigade he was not prepared to say, but he thought it would considerably damp their ardor and enthusiasm. (Hear, hear.) Clause 22 provided compensation to those firemen who were subject to the provisions of the new Bill, while there was no such stipulation for volunteers. Considering the many dangers the men were exposed to when working at a fire the question of compensation was one which the council should consider. The Mayor questioned Mr. Booker as to how He would manage if fires simultaneously broke out at Hindmarsh and in the city, and he quoted an instance showing how the brigade fought fires in North Adelaide and Adelaide at the same time. The former could be reached in ten minutes, and he computed that a similar period would be occupied in getting to Hindmarsh. Then it was possible though improbable that fire might occur in the town on a public holiday when every member of the volunteer brigade might be away enjoying himself, and a great difficulty Mr. Booker said would then arise. Regarding the manual engine presented by Mr. Magarey to the brigade the superintendent said it was not a modern appliance. It would require about 38 men to manipulate it in relays of half-a-dozen at a time. His Worship suggested that he should wait on the chairman of the board, and gain full particulars as to the stations of the volunteer brigade. Councillor Manning made a proposition in accordance with the Mayor's suggestion, and Councillor Brooker, M.P., seconded. It was rather "stiff" for the corporation to contribute £3 a week towards the maintenance of a brigade, and they should seriously reflect before coming to a decision. He did not blame Superintendent Booker for his endeavors to bring all the brigades under his wing, and thus possess autocratic power. Councillor Ralph thought if the local brigade were treated more liberally they would fully protect the town. Councillor Blight hoped if the corporation were to retain the volunteer brigade they would enrol a new captain. The motion was carried.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 11 February 1891, page 5

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

TO THE EDITOR,

Sir—I see in your report of a recent meeting of the Hindmarsh Corporation that while the subject of the fire brigade was under discussion Councillor Blyth suggested that another captain was required. I think, in justice to the present captain, the worthy councillor should give some tangible reason for his assertion, for I am convinced that not one member of the brigade and very few of the public would like to see the present captain resign his position.

The captain, being a practical man, has done more to bring the brigade to its present efficient condition than any other member of the brigade, including its past captains.—I am, &c, FAIR PLAY. Hindmarsh, February 6, 1891.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 17 April 1891, page 7

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE

At the meeting of the Hindmarsh Town Council, held yesterday, the mayor (Mr. Joseph Vardon) reported that he had inter-viewed the secretary of the Fire Brigade Board, and informed him that the feeling of his corporation was that they had a volunteer fire brigade, composed of men who had endeavored to equip themselves efficiently, and that they had a fairly good plant. In consideration of these facts he had informed the secretary that the corporation was not inclined to treat the local fire brigade in a cavalier fashion, but would give the men the consideration they deserved. He wanted to know what would be the position of the local brigade, and what rules would be issued for its guidance. He also desired to know what would be the position of the local corporation if they came under the Fire Brigade Act. He had informed Mr. Bristowe that if necessary he would meet the Fire Brigade Board. Subsequently he had received the following letter: —"Dear sir—In reply to your verbal request relative to registration of volunteer brigade, Hindmarsh, I beg to inform you that at the meeting of the board held on the 3rd inst, it was resolved— ' That provided the Hindmarsh Corporation come under the Fire Brigade Act 495, 1890, the board will register the volunteer brigade now existing and recognise the same as long as the members prove them-selves to be efficient and carry out their duties to the satisfaction of Superintendent Booker and in accordance with the rules and regulations for volunteer brigades which will shortly be issued.'— Yours faithfully, Arthur Bristowe, sec. He had informed Mr. Bristow that in the event of the local board being registered the men would have to be up to Mr. Booker's standard of what he thought they should be, and he had asked what, in case of a fire, would be the charges at the end. The reply given was that the charges would have to be paid; but he (the mayor) did not think this to be satisfactory. Then again he elicited from Mr. Bristow that if the local brigade were registered and the corporation were dissatisfied there was no machinery for annulling matters. He was of opinion that it would be wise for the local brigade to remain in its present form and for the corporation to give the men all the encouragement possible. If the local brigade were to come under clause 211 of the Municipal Act it would be put on a proper footing. The corporation could repair the schoolroom in Lindsay Circus and make it suitable for the local brigade, and as far as he could learn the brigade would be willing to avail themselves of it as a central station and make themselves as efficient as possible. Councillor Brooker was pleased that the mayor had taken the action he had in the matter, and he proposed that the mayor, and Councillors Coombe, Ralph, and Brooker be a committee to enquire of the local board what alterations would be necessary at Lindsay Circus schoolroom. In reply to Councillor Ralph the Mayor said the local fire brigade could not be compelled to register under the Act, but in case of a fire the city brigade might attend, and would charge expenses if the property was not insured. Councillor Ralph said it was clear that the corporation had acted wisely, and he thought that the ratepayers would recognise that precautionary steps had been taken to keep the local volunteer brigade intact. Had the local brigade come under the Act a special rate would have to be imposed. If the corporation recognised the efforts of the local brigade by giving every encouragement their interest would be increased. He seconded, and Councillor Coombe supported the resolution, which was carried.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 20 April 1891, page 3

HINDMARSH AND THE FIRE BRIGADES BOARD.

At the Council meeting, of the Hindmarsh Corporation on Thursday the Mayor (Mr. J. Vardon, J.P.) reported that he had interviewed the Secretary of the Fire Brigades Board relative to the registration of the local fire brigade under the Fire Brigades Act. For some time past negotiations have been in progress with this object in view, but the Corporation wished before effecting registration to definitely know their position and also the position the brigade would take if this was done. The Fire Brigades Board for some period have been drafting rules and regulations for volunteer brigades to come under the Act, and until this came to hand the Council decided to withhold the final step. The MAYOR said he had informed the Secretary that they were not inclined to treat their brigade in a cavalier fashion. The brigade had done good service, and were in an efficient state, with good appliances, and the members were enthusiastic in the discharge of the duties they had voluntarily undertaken. He wanted a definite statement as to the status of the brigade, and the position of the Corporation before applying for registration. He had also informed the Secretary that if the Board wished he would attend and give any evidence they required on the matter. To this he received the following letter dated the 6th inst:—"Dear Sir — In reply to your verbal request relative to the registration of the volunteer fire brigade of Hindmarsh, I beg to inform you that at the Board meeting held on Friday, 3rd inst., it was resolved— 'That, provided the Hindmarsh Corporation come under the Fire Brigades Act of 1890, the Board will register the volunteer brigade now existing and recognise the same as long as the members prove themselves to be efficient and carry out their duties to the satisfaction of Superintendent Booker, and in accordance with the Rules and Regulations for Volunteer Brigades, which will shortly be issued.'—Yours faithfully, ARTHUR BRISTOWE, Secretary." On receipt of this he again saw the Secretary, and asked to be more fully informed of the import of the letter, and he gleaned that first they must apply for registration, and that the volunteer brigade would have to come up to Mr. Superintendent Booker's ideas of efficiency. He then asked if this was done would the charges under the schedule of the Act for any assistance rendered by the city brigade as brigades under the Act be enforced, and was told that being a volunteer brigade the charges must be made. He further enquired if in the event of the Corporation being dissatisfied with the arrangement they could retire, and the Secretary informed him that at present there was no machinery to release them after registration was effected. In view of the information elicited he thought it would be best to keep out of the Act and to recommend the proper establishment of the local brigade under clause 211 of the Municipal Act of 1890. Councillor BROOKEB, M.P., said that the thanks of the Council was due to the Mayor for the trouble he had taken in the matter. The local brigade deserved every consideration at their hands, as they had spared no pains to make themselves efficient. Councillor RALPH stated that he believed that registration under the Fire Brigades Board would be most expensive, and would have to be provided for by a special rate. He thought if proper encouragement were given the brigade would prove even more efficient than it had done in the past. Councillor COOMBS also spoke in complimentary terms of the brigade. It was resolved that the Mayor and Councillors Brooker, Ralph, and Coombe constitute a Fire Brigades' Committee to take the whole affair into full consideration, and also to inspect Lindsay Circus schoolroom as to its suitability as a fire station, and report on the same at next meeting.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 1 May 1891, page 2

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

HINDMARSH, THURSDAY, APRIL 30.

The MAYOR reported that the Fire Brigade Committee had met, and with several members of the brigade inspected the schoolroom, Lindsay Circus, with a view of its alteration for the purposes of a fire station.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 22 May 1891, page 2

Latest News.

FIRE STATION AT BROMPTON PARK.—Mr. P. B. Coglin recently offered to the Corporation of Hindmarsh a piece of land in Brompton Park for the erection of a fire station for the protection of that part of the town against fire. The offer has been accepted, and the land, which is 15 x 90 and situate in Hocking-street, is being transferred to the Corporation. It is probable that a handreel will be located at this point, which is one of the most thickly populated parts of the town.

Bunyip (Gawler, SA : 1863 - 1954), Friday 29 May 1891, page 2

Items of News.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Mr. P. B. Coglin has given a piece of land to the Hindmarsh Corporation for the erection thereon of a fire station.

[Wednesday 10th June. The Brigade moves into Lindsay Circus, Hindmarsh](#)

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 11 June 1891, page 3

The fire brigade station in Lindsay Circus, Hindmarsh, is now completed, and the local Volunteer Fire Brigade, which has become vested in the Hindmarsh Corporation according to clause 211 of the Municipal Corporations Act of 1890, took possession of it on Wednesday evening. The building is an old landmark in Hindmarsh, and was formerly used as a church, in which the Rev. Mr. Playford (father of the Hon. T. Playford) conducted religious services for a number of years. Latterly it has been used for a day-school, and is now transformed into a fire brigade station. The alterations have been carried out by the local corporation at a cost of about £70 under the direction of the town clerk (Mr. J. Tait) and the superintendent of the brigade (Mr. J. M. Reid). By the ingenuity of Lieutenant Wharton locks have been dispensed with on the gates of entrance to the yard and the doors of the brigade station. The fastenings used enable the brigade to have their reel out of the building and on to the road in 20 seconds. One portion of the station, 12 ft. by 20 ft., is turned into an office and sleeping place for one man, who during the summer months will be on the premises all night. A space of 20 ft. by 28 ft. is utilised for a manual engine, a large fire reel and hose, of which there is 650 ft., and other appliances. The brigade has altogether 1,200 ft. of hose. They number 13 men, including Superintendent J. M. Reid and Captain Duncan. Superintendent Reid is desirous of having a fire-box on the Port-road, the branch station in Adam-street removed to Brompton Park to a piece of land given to the brigade by Mr. P. B. Coglin, a branch station in Bowden, and fire alarms fixed in various parts of the town. A committee consisting of the officers of the brigade and representatives from the local corporation will conduct the arrangements. The brigade, which has been established seven

years, is in an efficient state. Complaints have frequently been made of the low water pressure at Hindmarsh, and it has been ascertained by a Bailey's patent recorder, Mr. Reid informs us, that the pressure has been so low as 27 lb. at some periods during the summer months.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 11 June 1891, page 3

Preparing for the Fire King.

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.— On Wednesday evening the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade held their first meeting in the new fire station provided by the local Corporation. The station is situated in Lindsay Circus, and in the past the building has been used as a chapel and as a schoolroom, but by judicious alterations, designed, and carried out under the supervision of Mr. J. Tait (the Corporation Surveyor), capital accommodation for the brigade has been furnished. One end of the building is partitioned off for a meeting room, and here it is intended to establish a library, and Mr. J. Reid, the Superintendent, is getting books and periodicals from both England and America and pictures to decorate the walls. One part of the room is to be curtained and sleeping accommodation provided, and during the summer months the firemen will take their turn on guard at the station. The other end of the building will be reserved for a workshop, so that the brigade may effect their own repairs. It is also intended to construct some of the necessary brigade appliances. The doors of the building are made to unbolt by the touch of a lever and to fall back into catch blocks. The gates, which are also fitted with a similar convenience, have been supplied by Lieutenant Wharton. The station is fenced with galvanized iron, and has been thoroughly renovated and painted throughout. A manual fire-engine and fire-reel with the necessary appliances are provided. The manual, which was the gift of Mr. T. Magarey, has been supposed by some to be more ornamental than useful, but the Superintendent states that the poor water-pressure throughout the district— averaging between 30 and 40 lb., and on a recent occasion being as low as 27 lb.— would necessitate its use at all fires, and it would prove a most valuable adjunct to the brigade. The brigade at present consists of the Superintendent, Captain J. Duncan, Lieutenant R.B. Scarce, and ten firemen, all of whom have had military training, and are most enthusiastic in the discharge of their voluntary duties. It is proposed to start a St. John Ambulance Class in connection with the brigade. The Superintendent is making several recommendations to the Corporation for a system of fire alarms and the erection of fire stations in Brompton and Bowden, and when these are completed Hindmarsh will have excellent protection against fire.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 30 September 1891, page 5

FIRE AT WEST HINDMARSH.

Low Water Pressure.

Shortly before 1 o'clock on Tuesday a hay stack of about 20 tons, owned by Mr. H. Hun-wick, was discovered on fire on a section of land adjoining West Hindmarsh. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, in charge of Superintendent J. M. Reid, quickly put in an appearance, but it was impossible to extinguish the flames. The hay was destroyed, and a galvanized iron horseshed damaged. The water pressure was found to be very low. Mr. Hill, who was the first to give the alarm, saw two boys running from the haystack, and it is suggested that they set it on fire. With regard to the low water pressure at Hindmarsh the superintendent of the Adelaide Fire Brigade (Mr. Booker) has asked Mr. J. M. Reid, in case of fire, to telephone to

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11 December 2024

him when a greater pressure will be given, but this is considered to be unsatisfactory. The pressure of water has been tested from September 25 with the following results:—At Hindmarsh-place, corner of Chapel-street, at noon, September 25, 20 lb., and at 5 p.m. 15 lb.; on the Port-road, near the Land of Promise Hotel, at 6 p.m., 16 lb.; Albermarle, West Hindmarsh, at 10 p.m., 29 lb. September 20.—Near the Adelaide rope-works, Croydon, at 2.20 a.m., 30 lb.; Port-road, 2.45 a.m., 30 lb.; at the Victoria tannery, Adam-street, 3 a.m., 30 lb.; at Burford's factory, 10 a.m., 10 lb. The Hind-marsh Fire Brigade is well equipped, and the men are efficient in their duties, but Superintendent Reid, at whose instance the tests have been made, says his brigade would be greatly handicapped by such a low water pressure. A firebox with reel has been fixed on the Port road near the Land of Promise Hotel, and the branch station has been removed from Adam-street, Hindmarsh, to a position near Parfit's-square, Bowden.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 2 October 1891, page 3

Hindmarsh Items.

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.— The way the members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade of Hindmarsh work in the interests of the town by providing the best means of protection from fire and the enthusiasm they evince to make themselves competent firemen is most praiseworthy. Superintendent Reid has been most enthusiastic in the cause of the brigade from its inception. The plant and appliances they have acquired by voluntary subscriptions, &c., give evidence of the energy and earnestness of all the members. The Captain (Mr. J. Duncan) and the other officers have caught the spirit of the Superintendent, and as long as this exists there is no doubt that the town will be afforded the best possible protection from fire at their command. Recently the Corporation took steps to consolidate the brigade under the new Municipal Act, and converted the old schoolroom in Lindsay Circus into a fire station. They have also given a site for a reel station in Market-square, Bowden. The question of fire alarms is now being dealt with, and the Government have been approached to provide telephonic communication. Mr. Reid and Mr. Vardon, J. P. (Mayor of the town), have decided on the best places for the alarms to be fixed. When this is done Hindmarsh will be second to no town outside the city in regard to protection from fire. The brigade is still strictly voluntary, and though the Corporation give a certain amount of support most of the funds are raised by subscription. It is proposed shortly to give a public demonstration, when all the appliances and the manual fire-engine will be paraded, and the men put through the fire drill.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 30 October 1891, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Thursday evening, by invitation of the Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. J. Vardon), the Norwood and Kensington Corporation, represented by the mayor (Mr. J. Hall), Councillors White, Threlfall, Calder, Fraser, Binks, Craigie, Finnister, and Williams, and the town clerk (Mr. Geo. Gooden); the Mayor of Thebarton, (Mr. E. C. Hemingway), and Councillors Brown and McDougall (St Peter's Corporation), and eight members of the Norwood Volunteer Fire, in charge of Captain Cossey, visited the head station of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade. The visitors were met by Mr. Vardon and members of the local council, and after inspecting the manual engine and reels a procession was formed headed by the manual engine (horsed), and having on board eight men, in charge of Captain Duncan, and two fire reels, while one reel of

the Norwood brigade followed. When the Town Hall was reached the manual engine and reels were worked by the men under the direction of Superintendent J. M. Reid. Subsequently an adjournment was made to the mayor's parlor, and light refreshments were provided. The Mayor of Kensington and Norwood (Mr. Hall) gave "The Mayor and Corporation of Hindmarsh and the Local Fire Brigade," he regretted that at Norwood they had not a brigade station equal to the Hindmarsh central station, but hoped to see the Norwood brigade placed on the same sound basis. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade would be a credit to any metropolis. The members were able men and well governed by Superintendent Reid. The residents of Hindmarsh had no cause to regret the action of their council in this matter. The council he understood was unanimous in supporting the brigade, which was not the case with the Norwood council, and he hoped that what the visitors had seen would result in an alteration of feeling. (Hear, hear.) He hoped his council would be able to turn out men equipped as well as the local men. They desired local support. It was only reasonable to ask the Government to provide fire alarms. The Mayor of Hindmarsh, in reply, said his council was greatly interested in the local brigade, and it was only reasonable that they should, for the men had provided everything they needed except the fire station. The men were most enthusiastic and had given their time, had collected money towards their equipment, and had not received a penny for themselves. Their uniform was similar to that of the London fire brigade. The council felt that the residents were under an obligation to Superintendent Reid and his men for what they had done, and the council did not feel inclined to throw over the brigade so that it might come under the provisions of the Brigade Act, which gave no encouragement to local fire brigades. This Act was a mistake, inasmuch as it gave too much power to one man—(hear, hear) —and did not permit of local brigades applying money raised by themselves to the uses they thought best. He felt that the Hindmarsh corporation would have no cause to regret taking over the brigade under clause 211 of the Municipal Act. Had they acted otherwise the council would have been at the mercy of the Fire Brigade Board. Under the present circumstances the members of the brigade have done their best to make themselves efficient.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 30 October 1891, page 3

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

On Thursday evening the Mayor of Norwood and Kensington (Mr. Hall, J.P.) and Councillors Calder, Fimister, White, Craigie, Fraser, Williams, and Binks, Councillors Brown and McDougall (of St. Peters Corporation), and Mr. E. C. Hemingway, J. P. (Mayor of Thebarton) paid a visit to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade Station at Lindsay Circus. The Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade also attended with the horsereel. The visitors were shown the excellent appliances of the local brigade, and admired the quarters provided for the men, which are commodious and comfortable. The brigade, which has been in existence just seven years, has twelve men, and all fully equipped and in uniforms copied from the London Fire Brigade. These were all present, and the fire manual and the two handreels were manned and fire exercise was gone through, the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade also joining in the demonstration. After this the visitors were entertained by the Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. J. Vardon, J.P.) in the Mayor's Parlour. The MAYOR of NORWOOD, in proposing the health of the Mayor of Hindmarsh coupled with the name of Mr. J. M Reid, Superintendent of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, said he had to express the pleasure which they had felt in visiting the Fire Brigade Station and inspecting the appliances. The brigade were a fine body of men, the station was an excellent one, and he

hoped they at Norwood would soon be able to give their brigade similar accommodation, and be able also to return the compliment extended to them that night. He was pleased to notice that the Hindmarsh Council were unanimous on the Volunteer Fire Brigade question. They at Norwood had not been, but he thought after they had seen what had been done in this direction by the Hindmarsh Corporation opposing opinions would be modified. The brigade were splendidly equipped and uniformed, and were equal to a metropolitan brigade. He hoped the residents of Norwood would support their volunteer brigade in the same way the Hindmarsh people had, and he was sure then they would have a brigade to be proud of. In respect to the Norwood Brigade he thanked the Mayor of Hindmarsh and Mr. Superintendent Reid for the information they had given him. In the matter of fire alarms they had only made a reasonable request of the Government, and if these were supplied the suburbs would be well protected from fire. He wished the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade every success. In responding the MAYOR of HINDMARSH said they had taken up the fire brigade question with interest from the fact that the men themselves were so thoroughly in earnest. The brigade had by their own efforts acquired the valuable appliances they had inspected that night, and collected the money for their uniforms and equipments. The Corporation had only found the station, and thus they could see that the inhabitants of the town were under a debt of obligation to the brigade. The men were trying to render themselves thoroughly efficient, and when they were willing to form a volunteer brigade it was only right for the Corporation to come to their assistance. The Fire Brigade Act did not encourage volunteer fire brigades, and this in his opinion was the drawback to it. It had the effect of giving too much power to one man. The town required protection from fire, and a brigade was necessary, and they having one determined to support it and make it their own rather than come under the Fire Brigades Board. The toast of the visitors, coupled with the names of the Mayors of Norwood and Kensington and Thebarton and the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade, was duly honoured and responded to, and the company then dispersed. At the close of the fire-drill the members of the local brigade entertained the Norwood Brigade at the Land of Promise Hotel, and a pleasant time was spent.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 24 November 1891, page 4

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1891.

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade met at the central brigade station, Lindsay Circus, Hindmarsh, on Monday evening, and presented to Mr. Arthur Burnell an illuminated certificate of membership, showing that he had been lieutenant and treasurer of the brigade for seven years. The superintendent (Mr. J. M. Reid), in handing over the certificate, regretted that owing to Mr. Burnell leaving Hindmarsh he had been compelled to sever his connection with the brigade. Mr. Burnell suitably replied. Mr. Reid mentioned that it had been decided to fix fire alarms at Hindmarsh.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 11 December 1891, page 2

Fire Alarms for Hindmarsh

FIRE-ALARMS FOR HINDMARSH. — At the meeting of the Hindmarsh Corporation on Thursday the Mayor (Mr. T. H. Brooker, M.P.) reported that he had interviewed the Government on the matter of providing fire-alarms for the local fire brigade. The cost would amount to about £41, and he had explained that the Corporation had promised £50 per annum towards the support of the volunteer brigade, and the fire station maintenance

amounted to quite another £25, making a cost to the Corporation of £75 per annum. If the Corporation had come under the Fire Brigades Act the Government would have had to pay in proportion to this, in support of a permanent brigade, a sum of £112 10s. per annum, and he thought that under these circumstances the Corporation had a fair claim against the Government, and it would pay them to assist local bodies to help themselves. The Chief Secretary had promised to get a report on the matter and communicate with him.

1892

December 14th - A new Horse Reel arrived.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 23 February 1892, page 5

FIRE AT BROMPTON.

At about 11 o'clock on Monday night a hay-stack, containing between 50 and 60 tons of hay, owned by Mr. W. J. Mudge, and situated on a section of land about 200 yards from the Torrens-road, a short distance from the Brompton public school, on the opposite side of the road, was found to be on fire. The discovery was made by two men, who quickly prevented the flames communicating with a smaller stack within a few yards. Mr. Mudge was called, and by his efforts and the assistance of a number of willing hands the smaller stack was saved. Mr. J. Davoron and W. Hargraves brought the reel of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade from the Bowden branch fire station at 11.40, but the larger stack was enveloped in flames and could not be saved. The fire was supposed to have been caused by someone smoking near the stack. A short time ago Mr. Mudge found a cigar case amongst the hay. The stack was partly insured.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 24 February 1892, page 3

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade.

FIRE ALARMS FOR HINDMARSH. — The present mode of calling out the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade is a capital one (writes our local correspondent), as the horn of the South Australian Gasworks can be heard for miles, and when occasion arises for its being sounded at night the effect is startling. But though the horn is admirably suited to call a brigade to duty, something more is necessary to perfect the arrangements to supply information as to the locality of a fire. A person who gives an alarm at the gasworks has to give his name, and state particulars of the fire for which the services of the firemen are required. This is necessary to prevent false alarms being given, but as the fire station is about a quarter of a mile off delay is experienced in obtaining these particulars, and consequently, unless the fire is a large one and easily discovered, the men must either wait for the required information or rush off to the gasworks to get it, and thus valuable time is lost through no fault of theirs. It is imperatively necessary that telephonic communication should exist between the gasworks and the station, and that a system of street alarms should also be provided. The Government have been approached on the matter, and a deputation is to wait upon them from two or three suburban Corporations to request that the boon may be granted. It is held to be a reasonable concession to volunteer fire brigades, from the fact that if permanent brigades were established and registered under the Fire Brigades Act the Government would have to contribute to their support.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 3 March 1892, page 3

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

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11 December 2024

On Wednesday an unexpected visit was made to the central station of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade by the local corporation and other gentlemen. No difficulty was experienced in entering the front gates and the station as locks are not used, but by a clever contrivance access is easily obtained. The brigade station, which for many years was used for church purposes by the Rev. Mr. Playford, father of the Hon. T. Playford, is a pattern of neatness. The manual fire engine and hand reel are ready for use at any moment, and all the necessary hosing and other requisites are in good order. A workman's bench and tools are at one end of the building, the walls of which are decorated with pictures illustrative of the latest development in fire brigade work. One portion of the building is partitioned off, and on the table were seen periodicals and books giving information on fire brigades. In one corner was a stretcher, which is used by the fireman on duty each night during the summer months. The men in turns remain on the premises all night so as to be ready in case of an outbreak of fire in the town. On one of the walls of this room is a plan of the town of Hindmarsh, giving every water main, the position of the fireplugs, and what plugs to close to increase the pressure of water where required. The brigade are anxious to have five fire alarms fixed at various places, but the Government are slow in acceding to the wishes of the brigade. The brigade and corporation consider that the Government should concede to them the fire alarms in lieu of the one third cost of maintenance, of which they were relieved when the corporation took over the brigade, and a deputation will at an early date again ask the Government to grant the request. The services of the firemen are rendered voluntarily, and the members of the corporation expressed their pleasure at the completeness of the station and general equipment, which is due to Superintendent J. M. Reid, his officers, and men. The latest addition is an upright ladder between 30 and 40 ft. long, which has been erected in the yard for an outlook to see in what part of the town a fire might be raging.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 16 April 1892, page 4

HINDMARSH, THURSDAY, APRIL 14.

Present—The Mayor (Mr. T. H. Brooker, M.P.), Councillors Ralph, Mannion, Blight, Reid, Patten, and Gaskell, and the Town Clerk and Surveyor (Mr. J. Tait). The MAYOR reported that telephone-poles had been erected in Milner-street, and to allow the wire to work free the trees would have to be lopped to avoid disfiguring the young trees planted by the Corporation. The Surveyor and himself, with Councillor Ralph, had waited on the Postmaster-General, and suggested another route for the telephone wire. The question was fully considered, and as the matter of fire alarms was awaiting decision it was thought best to leave the line as erected until this was settled.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 21 July 1892, page 3

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

On Wednesday evening a meeting of the Board of Management of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was held at the Central Station, Lindsay Circus, Hindmarsh. The Hindmarsh Corporation was represented by the Mayor (Mr. T. H. Brooker, M.P.), Councillor Patten, and the Town Clerk (Mr. J. Tait); Superintendent J. M. Reid, Captain J. Duncan, and Mr. J. Brown represented the Brigade. It was resolved—"So as to enable the Brigade to obtain ladder practice, to authorise the erection of a platform 21 ft. high, to be placed on a scaffolding boarded up on one side, with a railing 3 ft. high round the platform." Various matters relative to the Brigade were discussed, and an inspection of the improvements was made.

All these improvements have been effected by the Brigade, which includes a wheelwright, a tinsmith, a cooper, an engineer, a carpenter, a saddler, a body-maker, a blacksmith, and a painter. All assist in keeping the appliances in perfect order, and adding to the improvements required, the Corporation being called upon only to find the material and what skilled labour, outside that enumerated, the work may require. After the business was concluded an adjournment was made to the Joiners' Arms Hotel, where light refreshments were partaken and toasts honoured. Great satisfaction was expressed at the condition of the station and appliances.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 24 August 1892, page 7

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Monday evening the Hindmarsh Town Council visited the head station of the local Volunteer Fire Brigade in order to inspect the recently erected staging for the purpose of giving facility to ladder and hose practice. The stage in question has been erected by the members of the brigade, and is placed on four 6 x 6 in. jarrah posts standing 9 x 7½ ft. apart at the bottom, and allowing a stage at an elevation of 21 ½ ft. of 6 ft. square, with a railing all round 3 ft. high. One side is boarded so that ladders can be placed and hose fixed, and thus a most important part of the drill in connection with fire brigade work can be expeditiously carried out. The cost of the material has been about £20. The cost of erection was saved by the members of the brigade doing almost all the work themselves, and they did it well. The Mayor and Councillors expressed themselves pleased with the improvement, and said that every time they visited the station they had more cause to congratulate the town on the possession of such an institution. After a little practical work with the ladders by the members of the brigade, the inclemency of the weather preventing any extended demonstration, an adjournment was made to the Mayor's Parlour and refreshments were partaken of. The Mayor in proposing the toast of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, coupled with the name of Superintendent Reid, complimented the brigade on their efficiency. They were to be commended for the sacrifice of time and the labour they devoted for the improvement of the station. He felt sure that they would soon secure fire alarms, and then Hindmarsh would be second to no town in the colony in the way of protection from fire. Mr. Reid suitably responded on behalf of the brigade, and proposed the toast of "The Mayor and Corporation of Hindmarsh," which was duly honoured.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 31 October 1892, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

The Adelaide Rope Works at Croydon narrowly escaped being set on fire on Saturday afternoon. Within about 15 ft. of the southern corner of the main building is a pughole in which is deposited a quantity of waste flax and sweepings which was supposed to have been set on fire by boys who had been firing off crackers in or near the pughole. The inflammable nature of the material caused the fire to spread quickly, and when Mr. Scource, one of the workmen, arrived at a quarter to 5 o'clock the fire had extended up the slope of the pughole across to some waste flax, which was burning freely behind the stable, and only six feet from the main building. He with Mr. J. Harry kept the fire under until the arrival of Mr. A. H. Tamlin with the fire reel from the Hindmarsh volunteer fire-box, which is situated near the ropeworks. But for the timely assistance of a number of willing persons, including the mayor (Mr. T. H. Brooker, M.P.), the ropeworks, it was thought, would have caught fire. Master

McNiece is deserving of praise for promptly giving notice of the fire to the local police, with the result that the alarm was sounded by the gasworks whistle, which quickly brought Captain Duncan and four of the Hind-marsh Volunteer Fire Brigade on the spot with the fire reel. They soon extinguished the fire in the pughole. Mr. J. Coombe, who is connected with the ropeworks, denies the statement made that the waste flax ignited by spontaneous combustion, and says that it has been accumulating in the pughole for several years, and there has not been any sign of fire from this cause. Although there had been fires in the pughole on two other occasions they were the result of direct causes.

1893

April 5th – Hose Cart located at the at Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade Number 3 station in the Ropeworks of Tamlin and Coombe in Carrondown (next to Brompton), North of Port Road on Government Road (South Road), between the Ropeworks and the railway line for 12 months then moved to a shed in the Plantation of Port Road on the John Street (South Road) corner.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 30 January 1893, page 3

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

On Friday evening a meeting of the Hind-marsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Fire Brigade Committee of the local Corporation took place at the Central Station. Lindsay circus, Hindmarsh. The Mayor (Mr. J. Jones, J.P.) presided, and there were present Councillors Chittleborough, Patten, and Gaskell, and the Superintendent of the Brigade (Mr. J. M. Reid), Lieutenants A. Wharton and J. Brown, and other members. An apology was received for Captain Duncan's absence through illness. The Superintendent reported that the erection of fire-alarms would take place at an early date, and Mr. Ray, Manager of the South Australian Gasworks, had kindly arranged for definite calls for the different stations, so that when a call sounded the fire-men would know the exact part of the town a fire had broken out, and get to the spot without delay. Money had been collected and promised for the erection of fire-alarms in the event of the Government not granting the same, and now as that concession had been obtained the bulk of those who had subscribed were willing that the money should be spent in the purchase of a horse-reel, and this was now in hand. It was intended to have patent harness for the horse-reel, the same as in Adelaide, and to make provision for horeing the same at all hours. The Fire Brigade Committee decided to recommend that a portion of the yard be tarpaved, and also to consider the question of pillar hydrants at certain localities. The matter of making a by-law dealing with persons giving false alarms was also taken into consideration, and will be brought before the Town Council. The Superintendent stated that the brigade had decided to hang up an enlarged photograph of the late Superintendent Salter, of Adelaide Fire Brigade, as a mark of the highest esteem which that gentleman had been held by the members of the brigade, and also that on Saturday the brigade would attend the Norwood demonstration in honour of Sir Edwin Smith, and Mr. Wilsmore, of Beverley, had kindly undertaken to horse the manual for that occasion. The Mayor expressed his surprise as the general appearance of the station and its appointments. He had no idea that the town had so well-equipped a volunteer fire brigade, and great credit was due to those concerned. It was his first visit to the station, and it was both a pleasure and a surprise. Councillor CHITTLEBOROUGH, who was paying his first visit, congratulated the brigade. Some drill was gone through by the members in an efficient manner. After business the party adjourned to the Joiners' Arms Hotel, and the toasts of

"The Mayor and Corporation" and "The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade," coupled with the officers and members, were honoured and responded to.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 10 February 1893, page 6

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

A small fire took place on the premises of Mr. T. Thwaites, Cator-street, Hindmarsh West, at 9.30 on Thursday evening, but owing to the prompt efforts of Messrs. J. McDonald, M. Hall, and a few other persons very little damage was done. Mr. Thwaites had stacked against a paling fence under a shed within a few feet of his dwelling three tons of mallee wood, and it appears that his neighbor had put some hot ashes on her premises close to the fence against which the mallee wood was stacked. This ignited the palings and the firewood, but luckily the flames were soon extinguished. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, in charge of Captain Duncan, was quickly on the scene, but their services were not required, as the fire was put out before their arrival. Superintendent Reid was also on the scene.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 10 February 1893, page 2

Latest News.

A SMALL FIRE.—The fire alarm was sounded at Hindmarsh on Thursday evening in consequence of a report of a fire at the premises of Mrs. Giffens, Cator-street, Hindmarsh West, but when the reel of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade arrived at the place the fire had been put out.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 21 February 1893, page 2

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

At the Council meeting of the Corporation of Hindmarsh held on Monday evening the question of the local volunteer fire brigade was considered. A report, together with a statement of the financial position of the brigade in connection with the Corporation, brought up by Councillor CHITTLEBOROUGH as Chairman of the Fire Brigade Committee, showed that the whole of the assets of the brigade were estimated by the Superintendent (Mr. J. M. Reid) at £300. This property virtually belonged to the Corporation, being held in trust by them on behalf of the ratepayers. The total amount contributed by the Corporation towards the maintenance of the brigade since January 1, 1885, had been £63 10s. 1d., besides alteration of the old schoolroom at Lindsay Circus into the brigade station at a cost of £65 17s., making the total outgoing from the Corporation funds of £129 7s. 1d. There was no amount fixed to be voted yearly from the Corporation funds towards the brigade, but the rules implied that a sum would be voted according to the requirements of the brigade. It was felt that every assistance should be given to make the brigade as efficient as possible, and the Committee recommended the carrying out of the work suggested at the last meeting of the Council, and also that an amount be voted to the credit of the brigade in accordance with rule 4, to be expended as required under the supervision of the Fire Brigade Committee. Councillor BLIGHT did not wish to do anything antagonistic to the brigade. At present, however, they had an overdraft, and the roads and footpaths needed attention. He felt under the circumstances that he must oppose the adoption of the report. In about eighteen months over a hundred pounds had been spent in connection with the brigade. Councillor Chittleborough called attention to the fact that the expense of making the station could not be charged to the maintenance of the brigade, indeed only £63 10s. 1d. had been

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11 December 2024

spent on the brigade by the Corporation since 1885. Councillor HUBBARD referred in eulogistic terms as to the work done by the brigade, and said they deserved every recognition by the Corporation. Councillors GASKELL and PATTEN supported. Councillor GOULD said it had been reported to him that at a fire which took place the men were to be withdrawn unless pay was guaranteed. Superintendent REID, who was present stated, with the permission of the Council, that no stipulation as to pay was made with the men, nor would he work under those conditions. The men were frequently out of pocket. They were a volunteer brigade. Councillor BLIGHT said that at the fire which occurred at Dowie's tannery some years ago he was told that unless the men were paid they would be withdrawn. He paid a sum for their retention, being Manager of the tannery at the time. After further discussion the report was adopted.

South Australian Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1895), Saturday 25 February 1893, page 8

FIRE AT BROMPTON PARK.

On Saturday afternoon nearly 200 tons of firewood was destroyed by fire on a piece of land facing Boucaut-street, Brompton Park, owned by Mr. Geo. Marks, proprietor of the Adelaide Pottery Works, situated on the opposite side of the road and joining the Port rail-way. This block of land is used by Mr. Marks for storing drainage pipes and wood, and he has had stacked there at one time as much as 700 tons of firewood, but on Saturday there was about 350 tons. The land is protected by a high wall of small drainage pipes, and when the gates were locked at 1 o'clock there was no indication of any fire on the premises. The foreman (Mr. W. Martin) left the pottery shortly after 1 o'clock, and was informed at 1.30 by a man who had been unloading clay from a trolley in Boucaut-street that one of the wood stacks was on fire. Shortly after the fire alarm had been sounded at the gasworks at 1.35 the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, with Superintendent J. M. Reid and Captain Duncan, put in an appearance ; but the whole stack by this time was enveloped in flames. and any attempt to extinguish the fire would have been useless. The brigade and a number of other willing workers directed their efforts towards saving another stack of over 100 tons, within 30 ft. of the burning mass, which had also become ignited, and after a considerable time were successful, as only a small portion of the wood was burnt. A small stack of about 30 or 40 tons also caught alight, but a few buckets of water was sufficient to extinguish the flames. Luckily a strong wind was blowing from the south-west which blew the flames in a direction from the large pottery works, distant only about 50 feet from the huge mass of fire. It is supposed that sparks from a locomotive passing along the railway was the cause of the fire. Five weeks ago the roof of the pottery was nearly set on fire by sparks from a passing engine. Leaves from trees in the railway enclosure deposited in the gutters of the building had caught alight, but fortunately the fire was extinguished before any damage had been done. The fire-wood was covered by insurance in the Northern Company, but Mr. Marks had drainage pipes roughly valued at £40 destroyed. The total loss amounted to about £150. Mr. Marks arranged with Superintendent Reid for some of the brigade to remain on the ground during the night. On Sunday morning the embers were turned over, when it was found that there was a quantity of wood underneath not much injured. It was not until midday that the fire was completely extinguished. The water pressure was very low, in fact "a mere dribble," which minimised the efforts of the firemen, who, with those by whom they were assisted, deserve praise for saving the two other stacks of wood.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 14 March 1893, page 4

THE FIRE AT WOODVILLE. — Some of the incidents connected with the fire which destroyed Mr. D. Bower's residence at Woodville are rather ludicrous. They remind one of the story of the stiffly conventional Englishman who refrained from rescuing a drowning person because he had not been introduced to him. They should, however, have the good effect of once more impressing upon public attention the necessity for some improvements in the Fire Brigades system. The same need was brought out prominently about eighteen months ago by a fire at Somerton, but the matter was unfortunately soon forgotten by the public, as is only too frequently the experience. When the discovery was made that fire was devastating Mr. Bower's property, Mr. F. H. Heale, Foreman of the Port Adelaide Fire Brigade, was asked to render aid. Before doing so, however, he had, in accordance with statutory provision, to seek the permission of the City Superintendent, under whom he works. "If the whole of Woodville were burning," he said at the inquest on Saturday, "I should have had to get permission from head-quarters before I could send assistance." As it happened the Superintendent got his message at once, and the foreman and two other men started off for and reached Woodville promptly. The presumption, however, is that if the Superintendent had been away from the town office— at a fire, for instance — the Woodville flames must have burnt themselves out whilst the brigade at the Port were sitting idly in their quarters. And, as the Superintendent says, the firemen could not be blamed for their inaction. Neither are they censurable in connection with another incident which admittedly led to a great increase in the damage done by the fire. When the brigade went to the scene they took with them only one nozzle, although four lay idle at the time at the Port. That was destroyed as soon as it was set to work, and three-quarters of an hour passed before another could be obtained. Surely if the second nozzle could be got afterwards it might have been taken as a precautionary measure at first. But whilst the men were waiting for it, the fire, according to Mr. Heale's own statement, destroyed a large quantity of property which might easily have been saved but for the interruption. The Jury expressed the same opinion in a rider to their verdict, and the public will endorse the judgment. Will they do more? Will they insist upon an alteration of the practice which leaves an important suburb like Woodville at the mercy of chance for rescue if a fire occurs there? The remedy is the extension of the plan which gives skilled central control over fire-extinguishing operations under the Act of 1890, and we believe that it could be applied without that complete suspension of the Volunteer Brigades which has been feared in the past and which is not advisable. It may be, as stated by Mr. Brooker, M.P. that the Hindmarsh Brigade would have more effective work had it been summoned, but that brigade is not under the jurisdiction of the Central Department, which, with its branches, should be a more trustworthy source of help than any volunteer organization.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 14 March 1893, page 3

THE LATE FIRE AT WOODVILLE.

to the editor.

Sir—Referring to the recent inquest on the Woodville fire, and the remarks of Superintendent Booker, where he says there was not one municipality or District Council between Adelaide and the Port that had come under the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act of 1890. This I believe is true, but when he says that property in these localities was totally unprotected he says that which is not true. He must have known that at Hindmarsh they have an efficient volunteer brigade, wholly supported by local government, and which for

years past has been able to cope with the fire fiend. Of course I know that the volunteer system is the one fly in the pot of Superintendent Booker's ointment, and his policy is to throw cold water in copious streams upon it. But I feel sure of this, had the message been sent to Hindmarsh instead of the Port we should not have had such a rider, expressing the belief that there would not have been much damage had a duplicate nozzle been carried by the brigade, but, on the contrary, we would have found that our volunteers would have done service that would have compared very well with our heavily subsidized one-nozzled Government brigades. I am, Sir, &c.,

THOS. H. BROOKER.

Hindmarsh, March 13.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 3 April 1893, page 6

FIRE AT CROYDON.

RAILWAY-STATION BURNT DOWN.

At a quarter to 12 o'clock on Sunday evening Mr. A. Baldwin discovered a fire in the ticket-office of the Croydon railway-station on the south side of the line. Several willing workers were soon on the spot and busily engaged in pouring bucketsful of water on to the flames, but without avail, and before half an hour had elapsed the building was wholly destroyed. The building, which was entirely of wood, was built five years ago. The Hindmarsh Brigade, under Captain Duncan and Lieutenant Wharton, put in an appearance, but were too late to be of any service. Mr. A. Duncan, the ticket clerk, left the office at 10.30 p.m., when everything appeared to be safe. The cash and other books and £4 or £5 in money were locked in the safe. The office also contained a small stove, but so far nothing can be ascertained as to the origin of the fire. Mr. A. Walkley gave the alarm at the police-station and also at the gasworks. Mr. W. H. Tamlin took the firereel from the Croydon Ropeworks to the fire, but the hose was too short to be of any service.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 5 April 1893, page 2

Latest News.

FIREPLUGS AT HINDMARSH. — The recent fire at Croydon was the means of revealing defects in the means for obtaining water from the mains for the purpose of extinguishing fire. One of the fireplugs when opened up for use was found to be so much out of the perpendicular that a hydrant could not be inserted. The stone which usually covers the tap had been broken and forced out of position by vehicle traffic. The distance between the fireplug in question and the next one is no less than 278 yards, and Croydon Station lies between them. The usual distance is about ninety yards. "It is stated," says our Hindmarsh correspondent, "that these are two dead ends. If so they should be extended for the better protection from fire in the future. The need for fire alarms at Hindmarsh so that the local fire brigade may be called earlier to attend fires was again demonstrated. If one had been erected as proposed at the corner of Government-road and the Port-road, Croydon, it would have saved a considerable amount of time."

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 6 April 1893, page 7

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

PROPOSED FIRE ALARMS.

For some time past efforts have been made to have fire-alarms fixed at Hindmarsh, by which means the local volunteer fire brigade would be quickly informed of the outbreak of a fire, but nothing definite has been done in the matter, although it has been stated at one of the Hindmarsh Corporation meetings that the Government had promised to put a sum on the Estimates for that purpose. The sites of the fire-alarms recommended by Superintendent J. M. Reid have been inspected and approved of. Superintendent Reid states that had the alarms been fixed the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade would have received a call immediately on the discovery of the fire at Croydon rail-way-station on Sunday night, as the site fixed upon for one of the alarms was near the Adelaide Ropeworks, Croydon, only a short distance from the railway-station. He directs attention to the bad condition of the fireplugs at Hindmarsh, owing to the slabs being moved out of their proper position by the traffic on the roads, and in some instances he says it is impossible to connect a hydrant with the fireplugs. One of the fireplugs near the Croydon station was in this defective condition, and although the regulation distance between each fireplug is 90 yards the distance between the defective fireplug and the one with which the hydrant was connected by Captain Duncan and Lieutenant Wharton was 270 yards. Had it not been for the causes mentioned he says the fire would no doubt have been checked before it had got a good hold on the station, or at least 20 minutes earlier than the brigade put in an appearance. The defective condition of the fireplugs, he states, has previously been reported to the authorities in charge. Superintendent Reid also says arrangements have been made for the purchase of an alarm whistle giving five different calls, which the engineer of the gas company (Mr. W. Ray) has kindly consented to fix on the steam boiler at the Brompton gasworks, and Mr. Ray has also promised to do anything in the way of signalling to facilitate the movements of the brigade in cases of fire. When the five fire alarms are fixed it is Superintendent Reid's intention to have them connected with the gas-works engine-room, where a man is always in charge day and night, and he will be able to tell from which fire alarm the call is given and will indicate the direction of the fire in any part of Hindmarsh by the signal whistle. The alarms will also be connected with the central fire brigade-station in Lindsay Circus. The local corporation and Superintendent Reid are anxious to get the fire-alarms fixed as early as possible, and express surprise at the delay. Mr. W. S. Dover informs us that he gave the alarm of the fire at Croydon railway-station at the Brompton gasworks and not Mr. Walkly as stated in The Advertiser, whom he met entering the gasworks just after the alarm had been sounded.

South Australian Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1895), Saturday 8 April 1893, page 11

The Week

At a quarter to 12 o'clock on Sunday evening Mr. A. Baldwin discovered a fire in the ticket office of the Croydon railway-station on the south side of the line. Several willing workers were soon on the spot and busily engaged in pouring bucketsful of water on to the flames, but without avail, and before half an hour had elapsed the building was wholly destroyed. The building, which was entirely of wood, was built five years ago. The Hindmarsh Brigade, under Captain Duncan and Lieutenant Wharton, put in an appearance, but were too late to be of any service. Mr. A. Duncan, the ticket clerk, left the office at 10.30 p.m., when everything appeared to be safe. The cash and other books and £4 or £5 in money were locked in the safe. The office also contained a small stove, but so far nothing can be ascertained as to the origin of the fire. Mr. A. Walkley gave the alarm at the police-station

and also at the gasworks. Mr. W. H. Tamlin took the fire reel from the Croydon ropeworks to the fire, but the hose was too short to be of any service.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 10 April 1893, page 2

Latest News.

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.—On Saturday, at about 11 p.m., the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to a fire on the premises known as Justin's Tannery, Port-road, Hind-marsh. Lance-Corporal Boath gave the alarm Captain Duncan, Lieutenant Brown, and Fireman Davis were quickly on the spot with a reel and had the fire extinguished before any damage was done. The blaze that gave rise to the alarm was found to proceed from a large heap of rubbish in close proximity to a shed. The property belongs to the Bank of Adelaide.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 12 April 1893, page 4

THE FIRE AT CROYDON STATION. RAILWAY

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—You publish an account of a fire at Croydon Railway Station. As the station at Croydon was gutted before the arrival of that efficient fire brigade at Hindmarsh, and as on Mr. Tamlin taking the hose from the ropeworks, he found it too short, I would like to ask "Thos. H. Brooker" the following query : — "How much damage would have been done at Mr. Bower's house at Woodville before the arrival of the Hindmarsh men, and how far would their hose have reached?" I think this fire at Croydon, close to Hindmarsh, throws rather a different light on "Thos. H. Brooker's" letter re the fire at Woodville and the efficient fire brigade at Hindmarsh. It will also show the people around that locality what they have to depend on in case of an outbreak of fire, I am, Sir, &c., EX-FIREMAN. Port Adelaide.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 18 April 1893, page 7

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

ALARMS AND HYDRANTS WANTED.

At the meeting of the Hindmarsh Town Council on Monday evening Superintendent J.M. Reid, of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, submitted a report in which he called attention to the importance of getting the water service at Hindmarsh thoroughly examined. The fire at Croydon railway-station emphasised the necessity of that, and it was important that Hindmarsh should not remain under the present system of water supply for the suppression of fire. Hindmarsh was supplied by mains from the North Adelaide reserve tank, and could only obtain 45 lb. pressure, whilst Thebarton, fed from the reservoir, had a pressure of over 60 lb. During the summer months the water supply to Hindmarsh was greatly diminished. At times there was hardly sufficient to flush the mains where there were "dead ends." The brigade did not receive the alarm of the fire at Croydon railway-station until it was well alight, and had there been an alarm in the position as arranged for in that locality with the Government notice would have been given to the brigade 15 minutes earlier. The brigade promptly responded to the call given but found on arrival at the scene that the branch hose, a joint purchased stock between the brigade and the Adelaide Rope Works had been taken to the fire by Mr. W. H. Tamlin. Owing to the lack of fireplugs, although equal to all ordinary requirements, it was too short. As the brigade always carried

sufficient hosing with duplicate appliances the platform on the north side of the station was saved. The regulation distance of fireplugs was four chains, and those behind Croydon station were twelve chains apart. One of these was found defective on the night of the fire and the water pressure was low. The main in Euston-terrace was the worst in the district with regard to water supply. A 10-in. main is tapped on the Port-road reserve side, and at Chief-street the water is thence conveyed by a 4-in. pipe to Government-road, thence to Euston terrace by a 3 in. pipe, and it was from the latter that the brigade drew the supply to cope with the fire at Croydon station. Side mains are taken from this 3-in. pipe, and its continuance leads to a dead end in Monmouth-street, Ridleyton North. If the 10-in. main was tapped through Queen street it would greatly help the supply to the western end of the town. The Government, he thought, would favorably consider the suggestion of Mr. W. Ray, who is an expert in "valve matters," that a self regulating valve be placed in a branch from some of the higher pressure districts. The street plugs in the town were considered obsolete for fire protection, and the flushing of the mains in the narrow streets, and the fixing of pillar hydrants, especially on the Port-road and in proximity to large factories. Cr. Vardon moved that the main facts of the report be forwarded to the Government with a request for the fixing of fire alarms and pillar hydrants. Cr. Brooker seconded, and said that two Governments had promised the fire alarms and pillar hydrants, and Sir John Downer had expressed surprise that nothing was done in the matter, as he had put it in the hands of Superintendent Booker, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. The motion was carried.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 19 April 1893, page 3

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

At the meeting of the Hindmarsh Corporation on Monday evening a report was received from the Superintendent of the local Volunteer Fire Brigade (Mr. J. M. Reid). As officer in charge of the brigade he pressed on the Council the importance of getting the water service thoroughly examined. The recent fire at Croydon Station had emphasized its necessity. Hindmarsh was supplied by mains from the North Adelaide reserve tank, and could obtain at the best only a 45lb. pressure. Thebarton, from the reservoir, had over 60 lb. During the summer months the supply to the town was greatly diminished, and in some of the mains, owing to lack of circuit system, at times there was hardly enough to flush the mains in such places as "dead ends." At the Croydon Station fire the brigade did not receive the alarm until the place was well alight. Had there been a fire-alarm in the position as virtually arranged with the Government notice would have been given fifteen minutes before. If the 10-in. main were tapped through Queen-street, Croydon, it would greatly help the supply to the western end of the town. The Government would possibly favourably consider the suggestion of Mr. Ray, who was an expert in valve matters, that a self-regulating valve should be placed in a branch from some of the higher pressured districts, and be so set as to prevent a diminished supply to the town. The street plugs to the town are considered obsolete in fire protection. The capping stones, and especially the round ones, were easily shifted in the vehicular traffic. He urged the fixing by the Government of pillar hydrants in the town, more especially on the Port and Torrens road, Hindmarsh, and in near proximity to large factories. These, added to better water pressure and the erection of the promised fire-alarms, would place the town on a firm footing so far as fire protection was concerned. Councillor BROOKER said the alarm question should be settled, as it had been promised by two Governments. He had been informed that now the question had been left in the hands of Superintendent Booker, of the City Fire Brigade. At any rate he had been referred to him.

Councillor VARDON could not see what Superintendent Booker had to do with the matter, and on his motion it was decided to bring before the Government the various questions referred to in the report.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 19 April 1893, page 3

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

THE CROYDON STATION.

Superintendent Reid, of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, has forwarded a letter to Mr. T. H. Brooker, M.P., who sent it on to the Commissioners of Railways. It read thus:—

"The recent fire at Croydon station has called special attention to the position of Bowden station regarding the outbreak of fire, and I would respectfully ask your early attention in bringing before the honorable gentlemen (the Railway Commissioners) the necessity of making special provisions for these stations. Hindmarsh has an exceedingly low pressure of water, and there seems little prospect of such being altered, and this will always form a handicap to the efforts of your brigade, and with especially the northern side station and its particular neighborhood, as it is not at all unlikely that a fire may occur. A weatherboard building well painted, erected on an open seamed platform is as conducive to quick burning as it is possible to erect, and I would respectfully suggest to the consideration of the Commissioners that they help us to the extent of £20, to be spent in the erection of a complete set of fire appliances, to be properly housed and attached to the galvanized iron fence the western end of the southern side station. These would be under careful supervision, and always at the command of the railway authorities, and the station-master could easily make himself qualified in the use of such appliances, and use and direct them in the event of railway property becoming ignited. Trucks of wood, &c., at Bowden station siding carry a certain amount of risk; and further that these appliances being in compact form could easily be sent down the line, for railway service only, as far as Woodville, thus covering that station and intervening ones. The suggested expenditure is as follows (the brigade paying the £5 17s. 6d.):—Firebox, £3; station fixing same, bolts, &c., 10s.; hydrant, £7 ; 300 ft. best 2½-in. hose, £10; quick-thread coupling, £3; branch, £1 5s.; keys (large and small), £1 2s. 6d.; total, £25 17s. 6d."

The reply of Commissioner Smith to Mr. Brooker was as follows :—"With reference to the enclosed letter I am much obliged for the offer made, but under the existing financial conditions I regret that we cannot at the present time entertain the application. What applies to Croydon would apply to every station on the system in regard to fire, and to provide fire appliances for the protection of every station would, as you would readily understand, mean a large outlay."

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 4 May 1893, page 2

Latest News.

ALARM OF FIRE AT HINDMARSH.—On Wednesday evening the horn at the South Australian Gas Works, Brompton, sounded to call out the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade to a fire on the banks of the River Torrens. The brigade, under Captain Duncan and Lieutenants Wharton and Brown, was quickly on the scene, and it was found that a large heap of rubbish was blazing on the Thebarton side of the river. Some indignation was expressed by some of the crowd present that the brigade had not been notified of the firing of the rubbish in question.

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11 December 2024

The fire again directed attention to the delay in getting the alarm sounded and the necessity of fire alarms being provided throughout the town.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 16 May 1893, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

FIRE ALARMS NOT GRANTED.

At the meeting of the Hindmarsh Town Council held on Monday evening the Mayor said he with Crs. Vardon and Brooker, M.P., and Mr. F. J. Hourigan, M.P., had waited on the Premier (Sir John Downer) with reference to an application for the erection of fire alarms at Hindmarsh. They had placed before the Premier the great want of the brigade, and he had promised to give a written reply, which had that day come to hand, and he was sorry to say it was a negative answer. It was as follows: — "Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, May 15, 1893.—Sir—Referring to the several inter-views that have taken place on the subject of the erection of fire alarms at Hindmarsh, I am now directed by the Premier to inform you that after careful consideration he cannot recommend that the request be granted, as the inevitable result of acceding would be to encourage other corporations to make similar claims. I am to say that it is probable that the Fire Brigades Act will have to be amended to prevent the possibility of expense being incurred to the extent which is possible under the present system, but the Premier does not feel disposed in the present condition of the finances to take action which might lead to further expenditure.—I have, &c., R. H. Sholl, Under Secretary." Councillor Brooker moved that the letter be received. He regretted that the Premier had decided not to grant the alarms, as he had hoped that the request for them would have been granted, but he would say it was no fault of the council and those who had urged the necessity of the alarms being fixed at Hind-marsh. The latter part of the letter pointing in the direction that the Fire Brigades Act would have to be amended so as to prevent expense being incurred might have been kept out. If the Act came on for amendment in Parliament he would promise to see that the amending should be in favor of helping those people who helped themselves. Councillor Vardon seconded, and said he had no doubt that influence had been brought to bear from a certain quarter. In reply to a deputation from the council on Thursday the Premier said he would get a report on the matter from the chairman of the Fire Brigades Board, and he (Councillor Vardon) would say personally he did not see what that action had to do with the matter, for what was the use of applying to the chairman of the Fire Brigades Board for a report, as that gentleman previously knew all that was done at Hindmarsh with reference to the fire brigade, and there was no need of his visiting the brigade station to make a report on the brigade. The report of the visit of Messrs. Meyers and Brooker to the Hindmarsh brigade station appearing in The Advertiser was a surprise, as the hoof was so apparent. There was not the least trouble at finding out who had inspired the report from beginning to end. Whether the statements in that report had influenced the Premier he was not prepared to say. The statements were so unfair and unjust that they should not be passed over. The report stated that supposing the annual expenditure of the brigade to be £60 per annum the council would have to pay £13 6s. 8d., the Government £20, and the insurance £26 13s. 4d. He could not understand any one getting that into his brain, especially when Mr. Brooker had said during the time that he (Mr. Vardon) was mayor that the very lowest expenditure the corporation would be called upon to pay would be £60 per annum, and that he would recommend that Hindmarsh should be placed on the same footing as Port Adelaide, and that meant a contribution of

about £300 per annum. The remark about the brigade being "a toy" was out of the question, especially considering the splendid services it had rendered and the testimonial for efficiency the brigade had received from the late superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (Mr. Salter), which had been published in the daily papers. It was an insult to the corporation and the members of the brigade to say that the brigade was no more than "a toy." He did not know whether that report had influenced the Premier. (Cr. Brooker—"I think not.") Probably it might not, but the whole influence and intention of the report in The Advertiser was to force the corporation to come under clause 3 of the Fire Brigades Act. He mistook the feelings of the members of the Hindmarsh Corporation if when he said that there was not the least likelihood of the local brigade coming under that clause they did not concur with him and say—"We shall not put ourselves under the Brigades Board by running the risk of an expenditure we know nothing of the limit." He was sorry that the Premier had not treated the corporation on the merits of the case, and said that he could have treated every other application in the same way. (Councillor Brooker—"Hear, hear.") What the corporation had done should be recognised, and their claim demanded some consideration at the hands of the Government. If any other corporation could show that they had done the same work as the Hindmarsh Corporation then their claim should be considered on its merits. Councillor Brooker said he did not think the report in The Advertiser influenced the Premier in arriving at a conclusion. He and Superintendent Reid had shown the Premier the fallacy of the report submitted by the chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr., Meyer), and he believed that the Premier arrived at his conclusions from a view of the general surroundings of the case. The motion was carried.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 13 September 1893, page 4

The Advertiser

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1893.

The superintendent of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade (Mr. J. M. Reid) is completing arrangements for the brigade to be ready to meet any emergency during the summer months. A new horse reel has been placed in the central station, at Lindsay Circus, where the harness will always be ready by a patent suspender to be dropped on the horse which will be kept at the station at night. Two firemen will sleep at this station from the commencement of November till the end of March. There are 16 men on the active list, with 21 auxiliaries. A branch station on the Port-road, near West Hindmarsh, has been finished, and it is intended to place in it the hose-cart, which will hold 350 ft. of 2½ in. canvas hose, one hydrant, and all necessary appliances. There is a branch station with a hand-reel at Market-place, Bowden, near Mr. B. Gould's store, and a firebox at the Land of Promise Hotel, on the Port-road. The horse reel, which is a creditable piece of work, was built by Lieutenant Wharton, and the harness is being made by Fireman Stead.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 13 September 1893, page 7

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

Our Hindmarsh correspondent writes: — "The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade have added to their appliances a new horsereel, which has been made with all the latest improvements at the shop of Mr. A. Wharton, of Adam-street, Hindmarsh. The fact that the cost of the reel has been met by a special effort on the part of the brigade, and not from the annual grant of the local Corporation, speaks well for the enthusiasm of the members. The brigade has just

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11 December 2024

completed a station with hose-cart and appliances on one of the Port-road reserves at the western end of the town. It is intended during November, December, January, February, and March to have a horse every night at the Central Station with two men in charge. Patent harness is being obtained from Melbourne. The brigade is to be increased to sixteen men with twenty-four auxiliaries. The latter will be mostly composed of those who have seen service in the brigade, and almost all have had military experience, which should be an aid to discipline. The majority are engaged in arduous employment, and this should fit them to undertake the laborious duties usually experienced at a fire of any extent. It is expected that the South Australian Gas Company's Works at Brompton will be connected with the City Telephone Exchange, so that private telephones in various parts of the town may be used for signalling. By these increased facilities the protection of the town from fire will be greatly augmented, and it is hoped that attention will be given to street pillar hydrants and increased water pressure, of which frequent complaints have been made. The new horsereel is to be exhibited in the forthcoming Agricultural and Horticultural Show."

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 23 September 1893, page 4

GENERAL NEWS.

A few minutes before 10 o'clock on Thursday night the manager of the Adelaide chemical works (Mr. R. B. Cuming), New Thebarton, sounded his engine whistle as an alarm test to ascertain the distance it could be heard at night, and was surprised on seeing several members of the Hindmarsh volunteer fire brigade on the works within seven minutes. Mr. Cuming thanked the brigade for their prompt attention, which he said was an indication that they would quickly respond to a call in case of a fire at his works.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 7 October 1893, page 5

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Friday evening social in connection with the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was held in the central fire brigade station, Lindsay Circus, Hindmarsh, when between 50 and 60 people attended. Amongst the visitors were Captain Cossey, with sixteen members of the Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade, inclusive of Lieutenants Steed and Hewson. Superintendent J. M. Reid occupied the chair, and referred to the good feeling between the Hindmarsh and the Norwood brigades, which he hoped would continue. Men who gave their time to apply themselves to volunteer fire brigade work deserve the best consideration from their fellow-townsmen. On November 1 the Hindmarsh brigade would start on five months strict duty in drill and night service to be ready for any emergency. To those who attempted to depreciate volunteer fire brigades, he thought it was not advisable to say anything, as their opposition gave strength to the position of the brigades. He was anxious that the Hindmarsh brigade should hold the position it had attained. "The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, coupled with the Hindmarsh Corporation," was given by Captain Cossey. Lieut. Steed said each time the Norwood brigade visited Hindmarsh fire brigade station they noticed that improvements had been made, and if the local firemen carried out the advice of Superintendent Reid they would continue to improve. He had been connected with volunteer fire brigades for between 10 and 11 years, and he regretted that the services of brigades were not appreciated outside their own town. Mr. J. E. Gooden congratulated Superintendent Reid on the efficiency of his brigade. There was a time when the Norwood brigade was superior to it, but he thought the Norwood men would have to be smart to

catch up to the Hindmarsh brigade. The only thing wanted to complete their equipment was the fire alarms. He commented on the manner in which the volunteer brigades were ignored, and he thought that if their services were not worth asking for the men were not worthy of going. "The Norwood Fire Brigade and Corporation" was given by Captain Duncan and supported by the Town Clerk (Mr. John Tait). Other toasts followed, and the proceedings were interspersed with songs. Mr. T. J. Moody was the pianist. Mr. Searle was the caterer.

Tuesday 12th December. Fire at York (now Allenby Gardens)

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 13 December 1893, page 5

FIRE NEAR YORK.

On Tuesday afternoon about 12 acres of grass were burnt on a section of land near York, owned by Mr. S. Coombe. It is not known how the grass was ignited. Between 20 and 30 persons assisted to extinguish the fire and kept it away from a large stack of hay. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade put in an appearance, but owing to the distance from the water main could not render any assistance with the reel.

Wednesday 12th December. Fire at Hindmarsh. George Burnell & Co.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 14 December 1893, page 6

SMALL FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

At a quarter to 2 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon a small building on the premises of Messrs. George Burnell & Co., Adam-street, Hindmarsh, was discovered by Mr. C. A. Blackwell to be on fire, formerly the building was used as a residence, but is now utilised by the firm for various purposes. Just outside the back door was an old water-barrel, a receptacle for odds and ends and scrap-paper, and it is supposed that a spark was blown from the chimney-stack of Messrs. W. Peacock & Son's wool-scouring establishment adjoining into the barrel and set the contents on fire, for it was here that ignition took place. Messrs. Burnell and Son's hose and that of Messrs. Peacock & Son were quickly brought into play, and in a few minutes a contingent of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade in charge of Superintendent J. M. Reid, numbering 13 men, was at work, and the fire was quickly extinguished. The door-frame was considerably charred and part of the paling roof of the back room, which is covered with galvanized iron, was damaged. | Through the promptness of all engaged the fire was extinguished before the alarm was sounded at the gasworks at 2 o'clock. It was fortunate that the fire was so quickly subdued, as it was within 40 ft. of Messrs. Burnell and Co.'s main wool-scouring establishment, and on Messrs. Peacock and Son's, ad-joining, was a large stack of wool in bales. Mr. Geo. Burnell thanked the fire brigade and others for the prompt assistance rendered. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade has been called out three times this week—on Monday at 9 p.m. to a small fire in the garden of Mrs. Viney, close to Messrs. James King & Son's timber yard and Messrs. John Reid & Son's tannery, Hindmarsh ; on Tuesday afternoon to a fire near York, and on Wednesday to the fire at Messrs. Burnell's. The patent horse harness is suspended and attached to the horse-reel in the central brigade station, Lindsay Circus, and every night a horse and two firemen are at the station from 6 o'clock till 6 next morning. The fire alarms are needed to complete the arrangements.

1894

From the Sands and McDougall Directory 1894.

HVFB Station 1, Hindmarsh Place North side, Next to the Hindmarsh Cricket Ground

HVFB Station 2, Ninth Street North side, corner of Drayton Street.

December 19th – Fire Brigade locations:

- 1- John Street (South Road) and Port Road in the Plantation of Port Road.
- 2- Adam Street at the Burford factory
- 3- Port Road at the Police Station
- 4- West and Third Streets
- 5- Gibson and Ninth Streets

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 22 February 1894, page 3

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

A competition in connection with the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade took place at the Central Brigade Station, Lindsay Circus, Hindmarsh, on Wednesday evening, in the presence of a good number of spectators. Owing chiefly to the low water pressure and to the fact that the old style hydrants were used on the fire plugs the smartness of the men was not shown to advantage. This was specially noticeable in the "Y" coupling event. The water pressure was 40 lb. to the square inch. There were three teams (five men in each) contesting, and the men had been training for some time. The results of the contests were:—

Horsereel event—The starting-point was 135 yards from the fireplug and the supposed scene of fire (a disc) was intermediate, 200 ft. of hose having to be dropped. Lieutenant Brown's team, 1 min. 4 sec.; Lieutenant Wharton's team, 1 min. 12 sec.; Captain Duncan's team, 1 min. 25 sec.

Large handreel event—The reel was taken from brigade-station to fireplug 65 yards distant and 200 ft. of hose run out. Captain Duncan, 42 sec.; Lieutenant Wharton, 55 sec.; Lieutenant Brown, 1 min. 13 sec.

Hose-cart drill with "Y" coupling—Hose cart taken 65 yards to fireplug and 200 ft. of hose run out. Lieutenant Brown, 1 min. 28 sec.; Captain Duncan, 1 min. 35 sec.; Lieutenant Wharton, 1 min. 44 sec.

Superintendent J. M. Reid directed the arrangements, and Captain Scriven, of the Garrison Artillery, was the official time keeper.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 22 March 1894, page 7

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

THE NEW HORSE-REEL.

On Wednesday evening the ceremony of presenting the new horse-reel to the town of Hindmarsh took place in the local Town Hall. The Mayor (Mr. B. Gould) occupied the chair, and Mr. T. H. Brooker, M.P., and Councillor J. Vardon, J.P., filled the vice-chairs. There were about 150 persons present, including the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. H. Gordon, M.L.C.), the Hons. D. M. Charleston and R. S. Guthrie, M.L.C.'s, and Messrs. Scherk, McPherson, and Hourigan, M.P.'s, the local Councillors, the Mayors and Councillors of Kensington and Norwood and Thebarton, the Councillors of St. Peters, and Lieutenant Stead, of Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade. The Insurance Companies were represented. Apologies for absence

were received from the Premier, the Treasurer, the Speaker, and Sir E. T. Smith. After light refreshments had been partaken of and the loyal toast had been honoured, 'The Ministry and Parliament' was proposed by Councillor Vardon. The Ministry had been called the Ministry of all the talents, and the way they pitchforked the other Ministry out and settled into their places was certainly most unique. He hoped that next session Parliament would amend the Fire Brigades Act so that people who were willing to help themselves might be helped by the Government. (Hear, hear.) The Chief Secretary, who rose to respond, was received with cheers. He said it was a pleasure to be present, and the evidence given by the splendid display of the local fire brigade of municipal self-reliance was most commendable, and was a healthy sign of the times. He congratulated the town on the possession of such an excellent brigade, and the people of Hindmarsh had reason to be proud of it. In regard to Parliament Hind-marsh had every reason to be satisfied with its representatives. Mr. Hourigan, perhaps, had yet to win his spurs, but Mr. Brooker had won the good opinion of all sections of society. The Ministry were merely a committee appointed to carry on the affairs of the country, and sometimes one thought that serious mistakes must be made when they saw so many unemployed. One of the mistakes, he thought, had been in the extension of settlement. They had been too eager to reach regions beyond. The Pine Creek Railway had cost about a million of money. If that amount was available now work could be found for all. The present depression from which they were suffering was universal. The prices of products were low, but after awhile re-adjustment would take place and things would right themselves. In this anxious time the Government felt the full weight of their responsibilities, and no Ministry could come out of such circumstances with flying colours; but they were anxious to do their very best for the good of the country. They were trying to solve the problem of settlement upon the land, and were determined to do their utmost in this direction as they thought this was the solution to the social difficulties of the day. (Cheers.) Mr. Scherk, M.P., also spoke. The Hon. D. M. Charleston proposed "The Hindmarsh and Kindred Volunteer Fire Brigades," and in doing so referred in complimentary terms to the local brigade. The Mayor of Kensington and Norwood (Mr. T. White), in responding, referred to the necessity of fire-alarms, and urged that the Government should see their way to grant them to the volunteer brigades, who cost them nothing. Superintendent J. M. Reid said ten years ago the brigade was inaugurated, and it stood that night without a blot on its record. The brigade now consisted of sixteen regulars and twenty-four auxiliaries, and they had plant sufficient to bring eleven streams of water to play on an outbreak of fire. Two men were kept in charge of the station every night during five months in the summer season. The town was divided into districts, and there were two other stations besides the central one, and a box of appliances for immediate use was fixed on the Port-road. The Premier of the colony (the Hon. C. C. Kingston, M.P.) had set a splendid example in donning the private's uniform of the militia, and that had stimulated them and every one to sink self and take some part in working for the good of the country. In a quiet way the men of the brigade were endeavouring to do some little service for the town. He thought that in South Australia there should be less disparagement of our own and more honest endeavour to improve the facilities to hand. (Hear, hear.) They wanted to see the town supplied with fire-alarms, pillar hydrants, and a better water pressure, and he hoped the Government would help them in this matter before next summer. The new horse-reel had been purchased and supplied with new patent harness and fire appliances at a cost of £85. This sum was being subscribed by the leading manufacturers and townsmen and the Insurance Companies, the former giving £50 and the latter being asked to make up the balance, and as twenty guineas had already

been donated by ten of the thirty companies in Adelaide there should be no difficulty in making up the remainder. He had much pleasure in asking the Mayor, on behalf of the town, to receive the new horse-reel, free of any liability. It was a valuable addition to the plant of their fire brigade, and he sincerely hoped it would prove a means, if required, of saving life and property. (Cheers). The Mayor, on behalf of the town, formally accepted the new reel, and referred to Mr. Reid in eulogistic terms. He was one who helped to form the brigade, and had led it up to its present state of efficiency. Other toasts were honoured, and at intervals songs were given by Messrs. A. Patterson, A. Duncan, and J. S. Gunn, and Mr. F. John delivered a recitation. Previous to the ceremony an inspection of the central brigade station took place, and the brigade formed in procession, with Gould's Brass Band at the head, and paraded the streets. When drawn up in front of the Town Hall there was some brigade practice under Superintendent Reid, Captain Duncan, and Lieutenants Wharton and Brown. There were twenty men in fireman's uniform and they skilfully manipulated the manual, horse-reel, hand-reel, and hose-cart.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 22 March 1894, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

THE CORPORATION ACCEPT A HORSE REEL.

Ten years ago the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was started by Mr. J.M Reid, who was appointed captain, and a small hand-reel was the entire equipment. Subsequently a large handreel was obtained, and the central station was on the Port-road, near the Land of Promise Hotel. As the brigade increased larger premises were required, and the old chapel in Lindsay Circus was turned into a station. Branch reel stations have also been fixed in Bowden and Croydon, and a set of fire boxes with reels have been placed on the Port road. The number of firemen has been increased to 16, with 24 auxiliaries. Superintendent J. M. Reid is in charge, and Captain Duncan is second in command. The latest acquisition is a new horse reel, made by Lieutenant Wharten, with patent harness made by Fireman Stead. The reel was formally handed to the Hind-marsh Corporation on Wednesday evening. A number of guests met at the central station, Lindsay Circus, and were received by the Mayor (Mr. B. Gould). The visitors having inspected the station and plant the brigade formed a procession and marched to Milner-street, headed by the Bowden Brass Band. After a few evolutions the company adjourned to the Town Hall, where a spread was provided. The Mayor presided, and on his right were the Chief Secretary, the Hon. D. M. Charleston. M.L. C., and Mr. F. W. Coney-beer. M.P., and on his left the Hon. R. S. Guthrie, M.L.C., Messrs. T. Scherk, M.P., T. White (Mayor of Norwood), and R. B. Cuming (Mayor of Thebarton), and Superintendent Reid. The vice-chairs were filled by Councillor Vardon and Mr. T. H. Brooker, M.P. About 200 gentlemen were present, including members of Parliament and councillors from the city and suburbs. Councillor Vardon proposed "The Ministry and Parliament." Many people proposed to abolish the obstructionists—the Upper House— but he would be sorry to see that happen. (Hear, hear.) The Ministry was one of all the talents, and he felt that they should be thankful for such a Government. He hoped the Fire Brigade Act would be amended so as to assist the brigades which helped themselves. (Hear, hear.) The Chief Secretary said it was always a pleasure to visit Hindmarsh, especially on this occasion. He congratulated the town on having such an efficient brigade. The people of Hindmarsh had no reason to be ashamed of the representatives of their district. He felt it was a somewhat responsible task to reply to the toast, as underlying the work of the Government were things that affected the prospects

of the country. Everyone must feel that sometimes serious legislative mistakes were made, especially when they saw so many men in a young country wanting work. No doubt one of these mistakes was the too great extension of settlement. Instead of making a sure conquest of the country we had been too eager to reach out, and thus dissipate our strength. This was a sign of weakness. He would mention, as an instance, the Port Darwin railway, which cost a million of money. What could have been done with this money fostering industries? But mistakes were made in every country. (Hear, hear.) The cause of the present suffering was perhaps world wide. Three factors were necessary in the productions of the world — land, labor, and capital. Land was only worth what could be got out of it by capital and labor. (Hear, hear.) In cases similar to the present the land owner had been the first to suffer. He felt that things would readjust themselves, but it was awkward while the readjustment was proceeding. The Government felt that the present was an anxious time, and that they had great responsibility on their shoulders—not too great, he would say, for them to bear, but too great for any man to come out with flying colors. (Hear, hear.) There was no kudos to be gained from the situation, and the Government would require to exercise great care to come out by the skin of their teeth. (Laughter.) The Government was most anxious to do what was best for the country, and were making experiments in solving the world-wide problem how to place upon the soil an occupying ownership. (Hear, hear.) He did not care what tenure was granted, but it must rest on a basis of permanency and prosperity. There must be a basis of truth, founded on righteousness, fair play, and justice. He could assure them that the Government would consider the welfare of all. (Cheers.) Mr. Scherk, who responded on behalf of the Parliament, said the members had tried to do their duty. Mr. Charleston gave "The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and kindred brigades." He congratulated Hindmarsh on having such a brigade, and complimented the superintendent on its efficiency. The Mayor of Norwood, in responding, said he had yet to hear that the premiership would be wrested by Hindmarsh. (Laughter.) He thought Norwood and Hindmarsh could manage their own fire brigades, though no doubt this could not be done so effectively as if a large amount of money was spent. He thought the Government should not interfere and make it compulsory for brigades within a 10 miles radius to come under one control. Hindmarsh and Norwood could show a good case for having their wish for fire alarms granted. The volunteer fire brigades saved the Government between £200 and £300 per annum, and £30 would cover the cost of the alarms that were wanted. He hoped these brigades would be cordially supported. (Hear, hear.) Superintendent Reid said the brigade, which was established 10 years ago, had 16 regular firemen and 24 auxiliaries, with plant sufficient to bring 11 streams of water to play on a fire. Two men were kept at the central station on night duty during the five summer months of the year, and there were two branch stations and firebox appliances on the Port-road. They required pillar hydrants and fire-alarms fixed in the town before next summer. The new horsereel, which cost £85, was being subscribed for by the tradesmen and manufacturers at Hindmarsh and the insurance companies. (Hear, hear.) The sum of £50 had been raised already, and he was anxious to make up the balance. He had asked ten insurance companies, and from them had received £21. He asked the mayor to receive the horse-reel free of liability. (Cheers). The Mayor accepted the reel. He said the total worth of the brigade plant was £300, and the cost to the local corporation £40 per annum. He urged that fire alarms should be granted by the Government. The toast of "The visitors" was given by Mr. Brooker, and acknowledged by the Mayor of Thebarton. The Chief Secretary proposed the health of Mr. Gould, who responded. Songs were given by Messrs. A. Duncan and A. Patterson, and a recitation by Councillor Johnson, of the city.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 5 June 1894, page 6

Some excitement was caused in Eleventh-street, Bowden, at 10 o'clock on Saturday night by a window blind in a dwelling near the Oddfellows' Arms catching alight. Some willing persons went to the rescue and extinguished the flames before the occupants were aware of what had taken place, and very little damage was done. The Mayor of Hind-marsh (Mr. B. Gould) took the reel from the branch fire station in Market-place, and with the assistance of Mr. W. S. Dover proceeded to the scene of the fire, and subsequently members of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade put in an appearance, but their services were not required.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 5 November 1894, page 5

FIRE PROTECTION AT HINDMARSH.

Orders have been issued by the Government for the erection of fire alarms at Hindmarsh. This has long been desired by the Town Council. In the past delay has frequently occurred in notifying the outbreak of a fire, and valuable time lost in getting the alarm sounded. By the courtesy of the South Australian Gas Company the same means of alarm will be available under the fire alarm system as in the past, viz., that of blowing the horn at the Gas works at Brompton. Five alarms, radiating from the principal parts of the town from the gas works, are to be connected with the Central Fire Station, and the men in charge will know at once in what part of the town their services are required. With the approach of summer two members of the brigade are now placed in charge of the central station every night.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 5 November 1894, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

November 1 was the commencement of the summer season with the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Two firemen have been placed on duty at the central brigade station, Lindsay Circus, from 10 p.m. till 5 a.m. nightly for a period of five months. The men take their turn. This was done last summer, but fortunately there were not many calls on the brigade. The success of that trial has induced the brigade to make this a permanent fixture during the summer months, and as the men are well disciplined under Superintendent J. M. Reid, Captain Duncan, Lieutenants Wharton and Brown there is no doubt that should their services be required they will quickly respond to any call. Last year the provision for a horse at the station was temporary, but now by their own efforts the members of the brigade have purchased a steed for the hose reel. The Government have granted the fire alarms and given instructions for their early fixture. There will be five points of call each connected with the gas works at Brompton, the point from which the fire signal is given by the sounding of the whistle; but in addition provision has been made for the signal from any of the five call points to be conveyed to the central brigade station from the gasworks in case of fire. There will probably be an increase in the numbers of the brigade, and as there are several auxiliaries it will be stronger than before. The plant is in good order at the central and branch stations, and also at the fire boxes on the Port-road.

Sunday 11th November. Fire at Hindmarsh. Metropolitan Company's brickworks

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 12 November 1894, page 5

GENERAL NEWS.

The residents of Hindmarsh were alarmed at noon on Sunday by the sounding of the fog horn at the gasworks and the appearance of column of smoke at the north end of Brompton. It was soon found that a large fire was raging at the Metropolitan Company's brickworks, and that the buildings, erected at a cost of some thousands of pounds sterling, were in danger. Within four minutes after the alarm was sounded the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, in charge of Superintendent J. M. Reid and Captain Duncan, were on the scene. It is thought that a spark must have dropped from one of the kilns on to a large stack of wood which was found ablaze. The manager of the works (Mr. F. Schubert) was the first to discover the fire at 11.30 a.m., and he, with a number of men, quickly set to work to subdue the flames. Through their efforts and those of the brigade the fire was prevented from spreading to the buildings. The greater portion of 140 tons of firewood was, however, destroyed. Mr. Schubert complains of the low water pressure at the time of the fire and Superintendent Reid and other members of the brigade agree with him. Had the alarms which have been granted by the Government been fixed the brigade would have been at the fire much sooner, as some delay was experienced in giving the signal. Mr. W. Streets gave the alarm at the gasworks. The high wind prevailing added to the difficulty in extinguishing the fire.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 12 November 1894, page 6

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

At noon on Sunday an alarm of fire was sounded at the South Australian Gas Company's Works, Brompton. The fire proved to be at the Metropolitan Brick Company's Works, Coglin-street, Brompton Park, more than a mile from the central fire station at Hindmarsh. Some slight delay was occasioned through the brigade not knowing exactly in what part of the town their services were needed until they arrived at the north side of the Port-road. A delay of this kind will be obviated when the proposed fire alarms are erected. The Bowden reel, in charge of Firemen Boscombe and Hocking, were quickly on the scene, and were followed by Superintendent Reed with the Hindmarsh reel and five men. This force was soon supplemented by Captain Duncan with the Hindmarsh West hose-cart and Port-road appliances, and the big reel under Lieutenant Wharton. Altogether there were sixteen active members of the brigade and six auxiliaries at work on the fire, which was found to be attacking a large stack of wood. The flames were encouraged by the conditions of the weather. Water was brought to bear from three hydrants in Coglin-street, and nearly 2,000 ft. of hose was need. Within a quarter of an hour the Superintendent considered that he had the fire in hand. A large amount of the wood was saved, and a smaller stack at a short distance, which might other wise have been burnt, was kept safe. The burning stack was situated at the end of the large Hoffman kiln, the top of which is covered in by a wooden shed, and this had a narrow escape from catching fire as well as a number of bricksheds only a short distance away. The firemen worked hard, and did not leave the premises until about 3 p.m., and several of them suffered much from the excessive heat of the fire and weather combined. The fire is supposed to have been started by some sparks from a small kiln in which bricks were being burnt. The man in charge of the kiln first called the attention of Mr. Schubert (Manager of the works) to the fire, and without delay the latter sent off a man on horseback to fire the alarm. Superintendent Reed expresses the opinion that wood should not be placed in such large stacks on brickmaking premises. He was pleased with the turnout of the men and the way in which all of them worked to subdue the fire in such trying circumstances. The water pressure at first was rather low, but improved later on.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 16 November 1894, page 3

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Thursday evening Councillor Vardon read a report at the Hindmarsh Town Council meeting from the superintendent of the local volunteer fire brigade (Mr. J. M. Reid), which stated that the Government had granted the fire alarms for Hindmarsh, and given instructions for their early erection. From the first of this month two members of the brigade had been on duty at the central brigade station from 10 p.m. till 5 am., and this practice would be continued for five months. The brigade had purchased a horse out of their own funds. The cost of keeping it would be £7, while the hire of a horse last year cost £5, but the difference would be more than compensated by having the animal always at the brigade station. At a meeting of the brigade it had been resolved to ask the council to grant £25 for the year's anticipated expenses. It had been strengthened by the addition of active members, and Superintendent Reid hoped the brigade would be equal to any emergency.

Councillor Vardon said last year the council voted £40, but this year, with all the fire brigade appliances at hand, it was thought that £25 would be sufficient. If they could get efficient fire protection for £25 for the year he thought they were working the brigade very cheaply. (Hear, hear.) He moved the adoption of the report, and that the request for £25 be granted, which was seconded.

Councillor Youds thought the brigade should get a better horse. The Mayor explained that the animal was a reliable one. It had been deprived of its foal, and that was the cause of the trouble on Sunday when the brigade was proceeding to the fire at the Metropolitan brickworks. Councillor Hocking thought some action should be taken for the speedy erection of the fire alarms. Although the Government had granted the alarms it appeared that the council was to be done out of them. Had it not been for the brigade on Sunday a lot of property would have been destroyed. The motion was carried. Councillor Hocking moved— That the town clerk write to the Government re-questing the erection of fire alarms at Hindmarsh as early as possible. This was seconded and carried.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 26 November 1894, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

On Saturday evening. Superintendent. J. M. Reid and Captain J. Duncan, of the Hind-marsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, finally fixed the sites for the fire alarms at Hindmarsh. In order to keep down expenses the existing telephone poles will be utilised. The work of erecting the alarms will be commenced to-day. The manager of the S. A Gasworks (Mr. W. Ray) has arranged for alarms to be connected with the Brompton gasworks, from which the fire signal will be given.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 27 November 1894, page 4

FIRE ALARMS AT HINDMARSH.

At the meeting of the Hindmarsh Corporation held on Monday evening Councillor Vardon called attention to the fact that fire-alarms were being erected in the town, and that, not being under the Fire Brigades Act, they could not avail themselves of clause 56, which had reference to the damage of fire-alarms or giving alarms. It would be necessary, therefore, to pass a by-law with this object, and he gave notice of motion for next meeting:—"Any person

tampering or interfering with any fire-alarm or signalling apparatus, or giving a false alarm of fire, shall be liable to a penalty of not exceeding £5."

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Saturday 15 December 1894, page 4

MISCELLANEOUS.

On Thursday night Mr. Jesse Stead, whilst crossing Hindmarsh-place, Hindmarsh, opposite the fire brigade station, slipped and fell and sustained a fracture of his left leg between the knee and the ankle. Dr. Evans set the injured limb.

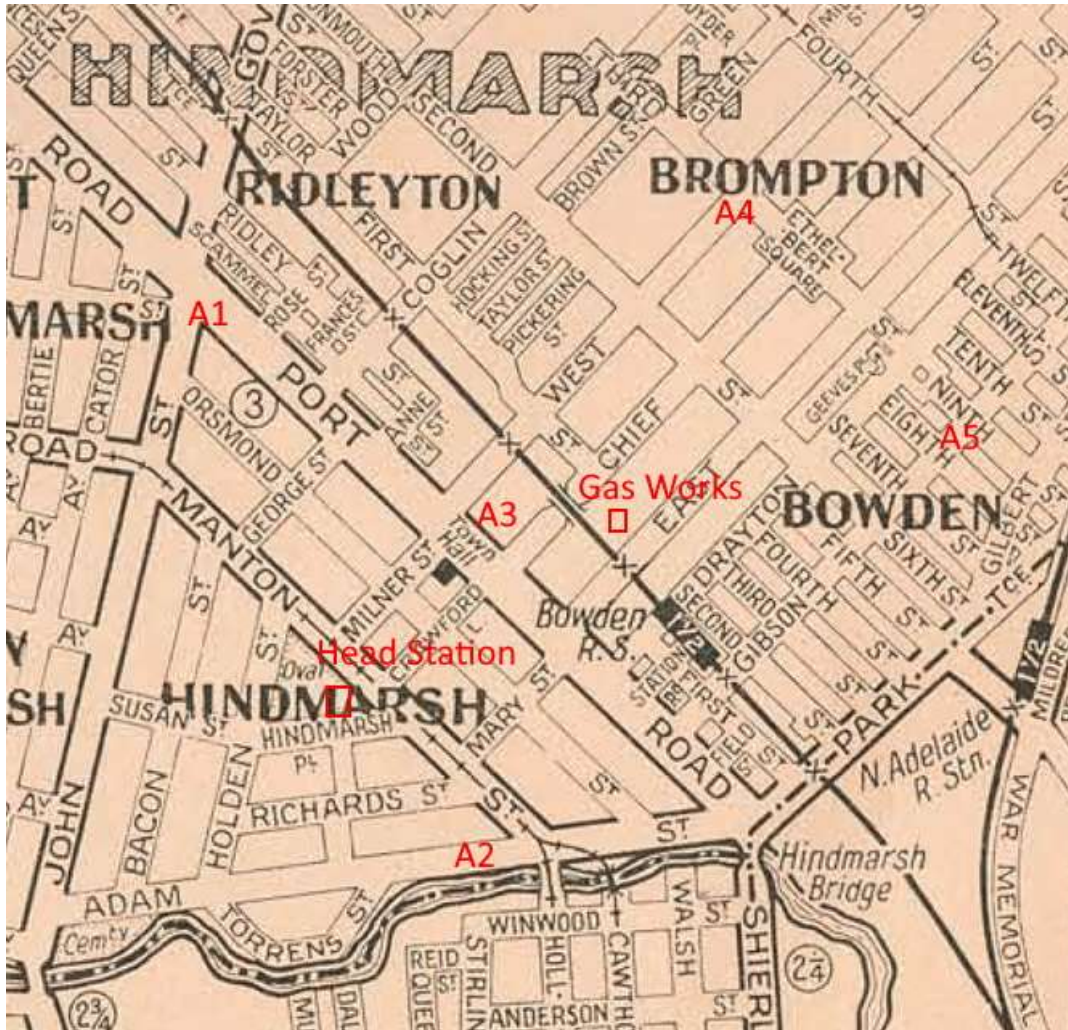
South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 15 December 1894, page 5

Accident.— On Thursday evening a man named J. Stead went into the Central Fire Station at Hindmarsh and began to interfere with the men on duty. Lieutenant Wharton, who was in charge of the station at the time, told him to desist, and when he disregarded the order proceeded to put him off the premises. In the struggle which ensued Stead fell and broke his leg. He was taken home and received surgical attention.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 20 December 1894, page 2

THIS DAY'S EVENTS.

The erection of the fire alarms at Hindmarsh was completed on Wednesday afternoon. They converge from the five points of call to the South Australian Gasworks, at Brompton, and the central brigade-station at Lindsay Circus, between which and the gasworks telephonic communication has been established. When an alarm of fire has been given the hooter at the gasworks will be sounded as a signal to the volunteer firemen. Pillar hydrants are needed to make the system in connection with the fire brigade complete. It is intended if possible to erect a brigade station in Adam-street, and some of the local manufacturers have offered to subscribe towards the cost of the work. The firemen, in addition to Superintendent J. M. Reid and Captain Duncan, have been increased to 19, and there are over 20 auxiliaries.



Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 21 December 1894, page 2

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade.

A general meeting of the members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was held on Wednesday evening at the central station, Lindsay Circus, Hindmarsh. Superintendent J. M. Reid presided. One new member was enrolled, bringing the active strength up to twenty. New members must pass a severe physical examination at the hands of Dr. Stewart, the hon. surgeon to the brigade, before being elected. It was reported that 1,000 feet of hose had been ordered from England, and when this was to hand the Brigade would have nearly a mile of hosing. The new fire alarms had been tested and found to be in perfect working order. Besides the twenty active members there were twenty auxiliaries living in various parts of the town. Almost all these were old members of the Brigade and had received fire brigade training.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 22 December 1894, page 4

Crumbs.

How is it that Hindmarsh has secured those fire alarms and Norwood still without them?

1895

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1895.

Hindmarsh VFB, Hindmarsh Place next to the Cricket oval. Brigade Station No1. Brigade Station No2 on Ninth Street, corner of Drayton Street.



State Library of South Australia - B 18569. Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh. Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade with their horsedrawn water pump and officers outside the Fire Station. 1895

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 3 January 1895, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

Extra precautions were taken by Superintendent J. M. Reid to have the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade in readiness in case of fire during the holidays, and on New Year's Day two men were on duty at the Central Brigade station in Lindsay Circus. The fire alarms have been found to be thoroughly satisfactory. They are tested by Superintendent Reid twice a week. The efficiency of the brigade has been tried by several calls made on the men, who are during the summer months on night duty, and they have responded quickly. On New Year's Eve shortly before midnight the men received a call and were quickly at the point from which it was given. Taking the advice of the superintendent some of the large manufacturers have stored on their premises reels of hosing and couplings of the same pattern and size as those used by the brigade, and in case of emergency these can be used by the firemen.

Tuesday 5th February. Fire at Hindmarsh. Mr. J. McCarthy's tannery.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 6 February 1895, page 6

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

At about 2 o'clock on Tuesday morning Mr. J. McCarthy's tannery in Howard-street, Hindmarsh, was discovered to be in a blaze. An alarm was quickly given, but when the fire brigade arrived it was found to be impossible to save the currying-shed, as the flames had too great a hold. The efforts of the firemen, besides trying to get the flames subdued, were therefore directed to prevent the neighbouring premises being endangered, and the fences

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11 December 2024

in some cases were pulled down with the same object in view. The shed being built entirely of wood, and, moreover, being saturated with grease and oil in some places, burnt very fiercely, and the roof soon fell in. An adjoining shed, covering knife-sharpening machinery and other trade appliances, was saved. The firemen, under Captain Duncan and Lieutenants Wharton and Brown, worked till daylight; 1,300ft. of hosing was brought into use. The water pressure was complained of, especially from the John-street main, the hose from this direction proving of little service. The fire is supposed to have originated in some shavings lying in the building, which had been produced from the planing down of a huon pine currying table. The table itself naturally absorbs the oil and grease used in the preparation of leather, and once alight would burn rapidly. The building is of two stories, being about 60 ft. long by 20 ft. wide. On each side there were louvres, as in all similar shops, for drying purposes, and these being open at the time of the fire a current of air was set up, which greatly aided the flames. The damage cannot yet be fully ascertained, but it is estimated from present appearances at from £200 to £300. The premises are insured. There was a large quantity of finished leather in the shop which was to have been delivered that day, besides one or two machines used in the trade, other appliances and tools, and a small stock of oil, tallow, and other trade necessaries. The hides in the pits being covered with liquor were uninjured. The blowing of the horn at the South Australian Gasworks aroused many of the inhabitants, and there was quite a crowd there during the progress of the fire.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Saturday 20 April 1895, page 4

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

Another False Alarm.

The Third This Week.

At 9 o'clock on Saturday morning the Hind-marsh Fire Brigade station received a call from a fire alarm, and on proceeding to the spot found that the glass had not been broken. This is the third call of this kind that the Hindmarsh Brigade has received this week. It is supposed that electricity in the atmosphere or the crossing of wires is responsible for the unnecessary trouble to which the brigade has been put.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 1 May 1895, page 6

A FALSE ALARM.

At 2.40 p.m. on Tuesday the motor at the Brompton Gasworks was sounded as a call-out for the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade. Some of the firemen quickly responded by proceeding with the horse-reel to the scene of the alarm at Government-road, Ridleyton. They found that the glass was not broken and that their services were not required. Some repairs were being made by men to the telegraph and telephone wires on the Port-road, and it is supposed that No. 1 alarm wire got in contact with other wires, as two calls were made in quick succession.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 15 October 1895, page 2

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Monday evening at the meeting of the Hindmarsh Town Council Superintendent J. M. Reid presented a report on the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and requested that a

grant of £30 should be allowed for the ensuing year in order to carry out further improvements for protection against fire. It was proposed to erect a fire station with hose-cart and all appliances complete in Adam-street, Hindmarsh, to place a hose-cart with all appliances near Messrs. Hocking Brothers', West-street, Brompton, and to effect other minor improvements at a total cost of £70. Towards this expenditure Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons had given £10 10s., Mr. C. Peacock £3 3s., and Mr. D. Reid £3 3s., and other manufacturers, as in years past, had also promised assistance. The district would be greatly benefited by such improvements. The thanks of the Brigade were tendered to Mr. W. Ray, the South Australian Gas Company's Engineer, and to Mr. Unbehaus, of the Telegraph Department, for the great interest and assistance given to complete the working of the fire-alarm system. Captain James Duncan and the other officers and members of the Brigade had faithfully carried out their duties. In the coming Summer the Brigade would have twenty active members and a large band of auxiliaries. The report was received, and it was resolved to recommend the incoming Council to grant the amount applied for.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 23 November 1895, page 22

On Wednesday evening, about 6 o'clock, Elsie Beagley, aged 8 years, daughter of Mr. J. Beagley, whilst crossing Ninth-street, Bowden, near Market-square, was run over by a butcher's cart. She had passed behind one vehicle and could not see another coming in the opposite direction, which knocked her down. Dr. Coombe was called in and he attended to the child's injuries.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 6 December 1895, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Wednesday evening a meeting of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was held at the Head Station in Lindsay-circus, Hindmarsh. Superintendent Reid presided. Captain J. DUNCAN reported fully on the state of the brigade. He had just completed the equipment of the auxiliary station in Adam-street, and during the ensuing week a similar station would be fitted up near Hocking Brothers' premises for the protection of the lower part of Brompton. When this was finished there would be seven hydrants, with nearly a mile of hosing, available for fire protection within the town, and with the branches in possession of the Brigade nine streams of water could be brought into play. There were now twenty active members in the Brigade, fully uniformed and equipped and more than that number of auxiliary members. The men were distributed throughout the town, and resided chiefly in proximity to the stations and fire-alarms. The report was received. One new member was proposed, and referred to Dr. Stewart, the Hon. Surgeon to the Brigade, for examination. During the evening the horse-reel was manned, and all the fire-alarms were tested and found to be in good working order.

1896

From the Sands and McDougall Directory 1896.

HVFB Station 1, Hindmarsh Place, North side.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 6 July 1896, page 2

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade has had to respond to so many calls which have proved to be false that some of the firemen on hearing the sounding of the "hooter" at the Brompton Gasworks, which is the signal for a call out, now distrust it. The firemen have on different occasions left their work during the day and got up at night to give their services to quench fire, and after driving over the town have discovered that a false alarm has been given. This has frequently resulted from the fire alarm wires touching. On Saturday night at 11.15 a trick was played on the brigade by a man rushing into the engine-room at the Brompton Gas works and informing the engine driver that there was a fire. He left without leaving his name. The "hooter" was sounded and the firemen turned out. After searching in vain for a fire they returned to the brigade station. with benedictions on the head of the man who had put them to so much trouble. One fire man who had previously been duped would not turn out, and on Sunday morning he learnt that the call was "a false alarm."

1897

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 27 February 1897, page 23

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Tuesday evening a visit of inspection was made to the central station of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, in Lindsay Circus, by the Mayor (Mr. A. W. Ralph), Councillors Hourigan, M.P., Blight, Smith, Wright, King, Medwell, the town clerk (Mr. J. Tait), the health officer (Dr. Coombe), the inspector (Mr. Bishop), the Mayor of Norwood and Kensington (Mr. R. K. Threlfall) the Mayor of Thebarton (Mr. W. Weber), ex mayors of Hindmarsh (Messrs. Joseph Vardon, Josiah Mitton, and T. H. Brooker, M.P.), the hon. surgeon of the brigade (Dr. Stewart), and a number of other gentlemen, in all about 30. Advantage of the opportunity, was taken to bid bon voyage to Fireman Harry Ray, who is going to England. There were 18 firemen present under Superintendent J. M. Reid and Captain J. Duncan. The men went through reel drill and the mayor uncovered a billiard-table in the assembly room. The company sat down to a spread, at which the mayor (Mr Ralph) presided. Mr. Brooker submitted "The town and corporation of Hindmarsh." The local corporation was established in 1871, when the assessment was £14,500; last year it was over £60,000. Hindmarsh had taken pre-eminence in manufactures in this colony— it was the Birmingham of South Australia, with a very small death-rate. The Mayor replied. It was said Hindmarsh was not in a state of perfection, but that remark did not apply to the brigade-station. Praise was due to Superintendent Reid, the officers and firemen for the general equipment of the station and the efficiency of the brigade. Councillors Wright and Hourigan replied. Mr. Joseph Vardon proposed "The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade" with the name of Superintendent J. M. Reid. Superintendent Reid, in reply, said the Brigade was established in,1884. There had never been a better body of firemen in it than now. They wanted a hose-cart for Brompton and one for the Port-road, 300 or 400 ft. of hose, and a steamer. The water pressure was low. In Thebarton it was 20 lb. or 30 lb. greater. The work of the brigade practically was carried out by Captain Duncan, who was ably assisted by Lieutenants Brown and Robinson; there were 18 firemen with 4 officers. A horse was kept at the station at a cost of £20 per annum. Dr. Stewart was the honorary surgeon. Two firemen had been at the central station during the past four months from 10 p.m. till 5 a.m. next day, and this would be continued till March. During the last three years the brigade had received £98 from the corporation, and had expended £120. Captain Duncan also replied. Dr. Stewart (hon. surgeon to the brigade) gave 'The visitors.' Mr. Threlfall said at Kensington and Norwood they had found it better to be connected with the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board than to have a dis-

sentient brigade. They now had one horse reel and two men. The metropolitan board wanted to increase the cost of the brigade, but the Norwood and Kensington Corporation did not feel inclined to pay more. The thin end of the wedge had been inserted. The corporation had built a brigade station, which was leased to the metropolitan brigade. There was not that feeling between the Norwood and Kensington Corporation and the adjoining corporation that ought to be on fire brigade matters, but it was satisfactory to know that at Hindmarsh the corporation and fire brigade worked together harmoniously. (Hear, hear.) The Mayor of Thebarton (Mr. W. Weber) also replied. Superintendent Reid proposed "Bon voyage to Fireman Harry Ray, coupling with it the name of his father (Mr. W. Ray)." He eulogised Fireman Ray, and referred to the assistance given to the brigade by Mr. W. Ray, who had had the fire alarms connected with the Brompton gasworks, where the fire alarm was sounded. The health of Superintendent J. M. Reid was drunk with musical honors. Councillor Hourigan, M.P., gave "The Press," which was replied to. At the termination of the proceedings the brigade responded to a call out on the Port-road in a little over two minutes.

Saturday 27th March. Fire at Croydon. Mrs. F. Fisher.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 29 March 1897, page 3

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

On Saturday evening a fire occurred at the residence of Mrs. F. Fisher, Port-road, Croydon. The alarm sounded at about a quarter to 8 o'clock, and shortly afterwards the local fire brigade were on the scene. Then it was found that the stable and outbuildings were on fire. These being old and of light construction were material for a big blaze, and being attached to the kitchen, which was a part of the house, the whole premises seemed to be in great danger of destruction. Fortunately the firemen were able to arrest the progress of the fire before much injury had been done to the kitchen. A few articles of furniture were damaged. The horse and vehicles were got out of the building before the fire had got a hold, and so were saved. A lot of house-hold furniture was taken out into the road. The occupier of the house next door ran the vehicles on his premises into the road in case the fire should spread. The firemen, under Captain Duncan and Lieutenants Brown and Robinson, rendered good service, and there is no doubt that but for them the house would have been totally destroyed. When the fire was nearly out the fire alarm sounded again, and it was at first thought that a second fire had broken out, but it was soon discovered that the signal came from the same alarm as the first one, and it was thought that some boys finding the glass broken had rung the bell. A new glass was at once put in and a man placed in charge. The premises were insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 16 April 1927, page 10

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

THE QUESTION OF ABOLITION.

OPPOSITION AT HINDMARSH.

Good Friday in each year as set apart by the members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and Ambulance staff for recreation and amusement. The annual dinner is also given on that day, at the fire station. The firemen's recreation club is responsible for the arrangements, members waiting at the tables. During yesterday morning a bowls match was

played on the Hindmarsh Club's rinks. At the dinner Superintendent G. J. Plenty presided. After the loyal toast, Lieutenant E. Smith submitted, "Parliament and press." He said that the last elections had made a difference in the personnel of the Government, and he did not know what attitude the present Ministry would adopt in regard to the movement to abolish the voluntary fire brigade system. Mr. A. J. Blackwell, M.P., responded, and complimented the fire brigade and ambulance men on the successful manner in which they had carried out their duties. They need not be disturbed about the continuance of the voluntary brigade. The length of time they had been in existence, and the value of their equipment were wonderful. He asked whether the Hind-marsh people were contented with the present brigade. (Cries of "Yes.") If an attempt were made to abolish voluntary brigades the members for the district would do their utmost to see that the Hindmarsh Brigade was not transformed. Superintendent Plenty gave, "The visitors." Mr. F. K. Nieass (Mayor of Hindmarsh) replied. Referring to the movement to abolish the voluntary fire brigade system, he said that the union of which he was secretary did not question their ability. It was purely a question of employment. That was what the unionists had against the voluntary system. If the Trades Labor Council said that unionists must not belong to voluntary brigades none would be allowed to work with men belonging to those organisations. Superintendent Plenty, Mr. Venn (Woodville Brigade), and Mr. H. McLennan (Hindmarsh Band) also responded. Mr. H. W. Tomkins proposed the brigade and recreation club. Deputy Superintendent S. Hocking and Mr. T. Lonnen replied. Sports and games were held during the afternoon. Tea was served at the station, and in the evening a programme of musical items was contributed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 19 April 1927, page 13

A SPECTACULAR FIRE.

HAYSTACKS DESTROYED AT KILKENNY.

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £4,000.

Damage to the extent of £4,000 was done on Monday evening, when three stacks of hay, each 70 yards long, were destroyed by fire on the property at the corner of Rosella-street and Torrens-road, owned by Messrs. H. Graves & Co., carriers. The blaze was first noticed at the southern end of the stacks, and almost immediately, fanned by a southerly breeze, the flames leapt half-way along the stacks, which within a few minutes were burning from end to end. A vast column of smoke and flames rose in the air, and as the glow was seen from the suburbs and hills, hundreds of motorists went to the spot, and the streets nearby were almost choked with traffic. As the fire ate into the hay huge portions fell with a roar. The stacks contained 1,100 tons of hay and 150 tons of straw for food and bedding for 300 to 400 horses owned by Messrs. Graves & Co. They were situated in the north-west corner of a 26-acre paddock, and their northern ends practically adjoined a large yard, in which are situated a chaffmill and a wood and iron cottage, tenanted by Mr. P. Gaehl, who looks after the premises. Messrs. Henry Graves (managing director), and James and Frederick Graves (directors), were quickly on the scene, but they realised that nothing could save their property. Mr. H. Graves stated that the damage was covered by insurance. The manager for Messrs. Graves and Co. (Mr. J. O'Loughlin), who lives nearby, said that just before the fire occurred he was cutting lucern about 30 yards from the chaffmill. He carried the green feed in, and when about to enter the mill Mr. Gaehl, who was at the doorway, shouted, "There's a fire." Mr. O'Loughlin said he turned round and saw the reflection against the sky at the far

end of the stacks. He rushed across, thinking he might see someone about, and by the time he reached the other side of the piles of hay the fire was half-way along them, and within five minutes it had enveloped the whole row. The hay, he stated, had been bought from farmers in the country, and was stored to meet the requirements of the firm, which always kept a six or eight months' supply on hand. The hay was mostly two or three years old, but the straw had only been put there recently, the last load going in on Thursday. One of the first to ring for assistance was Mr. H. Brown, who lives next door to Mr. O'Loughlin, on Torrens-road. He gave the alarm to the Woodville Volunteer Fire Brigade, and soon afterwards the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call. The fire spread so rapidly that by the time the brigades arrived the stacks were a raging furnace, and it was seen that it was hopeless from the start to think of saving any of the hay. The house of Mr. Gaehl was emptied of its furniture, which was packed on the garden path in case the place should catch alight. Fortunately, in spite of the wind, few sparks flew about. The pressure of water was good, and with the assistance of a Dennis pump three hoses were played on to the fire. A huge crowd gathered round the stacks, and police from Hindmarsh, Woodville, and Kilkenny were busy keeping people back and controlling the congested traffic in the streets. Constable D. J. O'Leary, of Hindmarsh, stated that it was not known how the fire started. He would continue his investigations, and report to the City Coroner (Dr. W. Ramsay Smith), this morning. The superintendent of the Woodville Volunteer Fire Brigade (Mr. R. G. Philips) said they received the call shortly before 7 o'clock, and 16 men responded. "It was seen that it was a useless task from the beginning to attempt to stop the fire, so he concentrated the efforts of the firemen on the northern-ends of the stacks in order to prevent the conflagration spreading to the chaff mill and Mr. Gaehl's cottage. The stacks, he added, were built to keep water out, and this made the brigade's task more difficult. From the watermain to the stacks was a distance of over 100 yards. He expected that the fire would smoulder for two or three weeks.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 31 August 1897, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

At the meeting of the Hindmarsh Town Council on Monday evening the Mayor said he had noticed a paragraph in one of the daily papers stating that "a trick" had been played on the local fire brigade at 1.10 on Sunday morning, as the firemen had been called out, so far as he could see, as "a lark." If that was so the council should take the matter in hand, as it was cruel to call the brigade out for no purpose, especially in such stormy weather. The brigade gave their services voluntarily in the interest of the town, and the culprit who broke the glass and called them out should be brought to justice. He expected to have heard a complaint from the brigade, but none had come to hand. Councillor Wright said it was necessary that the brigade should be protected, and he moved— That a reward of £2 be offered for the conviction of the person who called out the brigade by a false alarm.

Councillor Medwell seconded, and said the tricks played on the brigade so many times would no doubt affect the firemen on some future occasion when their services were required. The motion was carried.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 30 September 1897, page 3

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

On Wednesday evening a meeting in connection with the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was held at the local Head Fire Station. There were present the Mayor of Hindmarsh, Mr. A. W. Ralph, and Councillors J. F. King and W. Blight, representing the local Corporation, together with Superintendent J. M. Reid, Captain Duncan, and Lieutenants Brown and Robinson ; and the Hon. Secretary to the brigade, Mr. J. E. Reid, represented the Fire Brigade. The principal business was to take into consideration the acts of vandalism that have recently occurred by persons breaking the alarm glasses and giving false alarms, thus causing the brigade to be needlessly turned out. Strong disapproval of these contemptible acts was expressed, and it was decided to recommend to the Corporation that a reward of three pounds be offered to any person giving information leading to a convictions for the offence. Superintendent REID stated that the brigade was always ready to attend any outbreak of fire in the town, but being called out on a false alarm had a disheartening effect, especially as the men gave their services gratuitously. The members of the Corporation promised to take all possible measures to protect the Brigade.

1898

From the Sands and McDougall Directory 1898.

Hindmarsh HVFB No 1 Brigade Station, Hindmarsh Place, North side.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 8 January 1898, page 4

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

At about twenty minutes to 11 o'clock on Friday night the fire-alarm was sounded at the South Australian Gas Company's works at Brompton, and at the same time a reflection of fire was seen in the direction of Hindmarsh West, and soon hundreds of persons were running towards that locality. The fire was found to be at the premises of Mr. James McDonald, tanner and currier, Gator-street, Hindmarsh West. The sheds are built on an allotment of 50 ft. frontage by about 180 ft., and run at the back and side, and a dwelling-house occupies the front. For so small a place the sheds and stables are fairly extensive, and owing to the nature of the business the wood in the buildings, being saturated with grease, burned fiercely, and the flames could be seen at a great distance. The local Volunteer Fire Brigade were soon on the spot with a handreel, and were in time to prevent the flames reaching the house. Later on another handreel arrived, and the fire was got under. The damage is not easily estimated. A lot of material was carried out at the back. Mr. McDonald resides chiefly at the Grange, and knew nothing of the fire until informed by a friend, who drove down to acquaint him of the affair. It is stated that the premises are insured. An accident happened to the horsereel be-longing to the brigade. By some mischance the horse broke away with the reel before everything was ready, and came to grief in front of the post-office. There the animal fell headlong, and the reel was overturned and completely wrecked. The men came up and released the horse and placed the reel out of the road, and then ran to render assistance at the fire.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 10 January 1898, page 2

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

On Sunday afternoon a fire broke out at the Metropolitan Brick Company's Works at Brompton Park, Hindmarsh. A stack of wood accidentally ignited, and was soon in a blaze. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade were promptly on the premises, but owing to the

poor pressure of water they could do little good. Efforts to increase the pressure being successful two lines of hose enabled the brigade to control the flames. The stack is at a considerable distance from the road where the main is situated, and consequently it took nearly 400 ft. of hose to reach the spot. Superintendent Reid, Captain Duncan, Lieutenants Brown and Robinson, and nearly every member of the brigade were present. About two years ago a similar fire occurred at these premises, and on a Sunday too. It is stated that nearly 200 tons of wood was burnt or charred. Some sheds narrowly escaped being destroyed, but no other damage was done. There was a great crowd of persons present, and the police had difficulty in keeping them back.

South Australian Register, Wednesday 11th May 1898 page 7

Resolved that the stable-yard of the Fire Station be paved.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 23 June 1898, page 6

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

MESSRS. SIM & CO'S COOPERAGE GUTTED.

On Wednesday evening at about 6 o'clock an alarm of fire was sounded at the South Australian Gas Company's works at Brompton. It was discovered that the cooperage works belonging to Messrs. J. Sim & Co., Manton-street, Hindmarsh, were ablaze. The Hind-marsh Volunteer Fire Brigade turned out promptly and did splendid work. In a short time the brigade had the flames under control, and in fact saved the roofs of the several buildings and sheds. The storeroom, in which it was estimated nearly 400 casks were stacked, was fully ablaze. The rafters are charred and the doors and windows practically ruined. This store is about 60 ft. long and 35 ft wide, and the casks nearly filled it. There was a mass of fire when the brigade arrived, and there seemed little hope of saving the place from total destruction. Later, when the flames were got under, the smouldering timber would again and again burst into activity. The building forming the entrance to the premises, although attached to the storeroom, is divided by a thick brick wall with large sliding doors. This was not ceiled, and the rafters and beams were ablaze, but the fireman saved the roof. To the left is the office, which was untouched. At the back are extensive sheds, where most of the work is performed, and here the only damage was that caused by the water, except at the rear of the store-room, where a number of small casks were stacked; these suffered from both fire and water. Most of the workmen's tools escaped damage. A number of willing hands assisted in carrying casks and material into the street to prevent being destroyed. The Brigade numbered twenty, and were under the direction of Superintendent J.M. Reid and Captain Duncan. The alarm was given by a boy named James Davis, who in passing saw sparks, and looking through the window, expecting to see some one at work, observed the casks in flames. He then ran to the Port-road and gave the alarm. Mr. W. King, of Hindmarsh, says that at about half-past 5 o'clock he saw sparks, but thought the men were working late. The men all left at 5, and they state that everything appeared to be the same as usual. They have an open fire during working hours in the shed at the back, and there they warm the timber in which they are at work, but that is always put out at night It is thought that sparks might have escaped and started the fire. The stock was partially insured, Mr. Sim stating that he thought the amount was £450, but the loss he estimates was greatly in excess of this. The premises are the property of the Bank of Adelaide, and are said to be insured. The damage to the building cannot be ascertained until an inspection is made in daylight.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 1 July 1898, page 6

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

For some time past the members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade have been desirous of recognising in some way the kindly and active assistance rendered them by Mr. William Ray, engineer, of the South Australian Gasworks. For years past Mr. Ray, by the erection of the fire alarms at his company's works and by suggestions for making the brigade more efficient in its work, has rendered valuable assistance to the brigade, and in order to recognise these services the officers, Superintendent John M. Reid, Captain Duncan, Lieutenant Brown, and the secretary (Mr. J. E. Reid), waited on Wednesday evening upon Mr. Ray at his residence, Brompton, and presented him with two framed photographs of the brigade and its appliances. Superintendent Reid, in presenting these, extended to Mr. Ray the hearty thanks of the brigade and expressed the hope that it would always merit his valued assistance in the protection of the town of Hindmarsh from fire. Mr. Ray, in accepting the photos, stated he felt deeply interested in the maintenance of the brigade, and while accepting the pictures as a mark of the esteem of the members he felt he had done nothing more than his duty as a citizen, and the brigade could rest assured of his future assistance whenever it could be rendered. Responses from the officers present ended a most pleasant and instructive interview.

1899



State Library of South Australia - Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh [B 35054] Members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Approximately 1899

From the Sands and McDougall Directory 1899.

Hindmarsh VFB Station number 1 at Hindmarsh Place North side, and Station number 2 on the corner of Ninth Street and Drayton Street.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 12 January 1899, page 2

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

At about 11 o'clock on Wednesday evening a fire was discovered at the cooerage of Messrs. Sim & Co., Martin-street, Hindmarsh. Mr. George Coulthard gave the alarm, and the local Volunteer Fire Brigade were soon on the spot, and prevented any great damage being done, although a number of casks of various kinds in the storeroom were burnt and damaged with water. The fire was confined to the storeroom, and the firemen did good service. A few months ago a fire occurred at this establishment, and considerable loss was sustained.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 16 January 1899, page 4

FIRES AT HINDMARSH.

Soon after midnight on Friday the alarm was sounded for the services of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Some of the members were quickly at the fire-alarm post on the Port-road, from which the signal had been given. The glass of the alarm was broken, but there was no one there to tell the whereabouts of the fire. The firemen, therefore, concluded that it was a false alarm, and returned to the station. A fire had, however, actually occurred at the premises of Mr. P. Cullen, of Roberts-street, where a shed had been burned on the previous night. The girl who gave the alarm neglected to await the arrival of the brigade, but ran back to the house to find that the fire had been put out with the garden hose. The window of the coachhouse was damaged by the fire, which apparently was due to the ignition of bags hanging below the window-frame. On three consecutive nights last week the brigade was called out, and the members responded promptly to the calls. The three fires, which occurred within a few yards of each other, will form the subject of an enquiry by the City Coroner this morning.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 17 January 1899, page 2

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

On Monday morning an enquiry into the circumstances connected with the fire which occurred at Mr. Patrick Cullen's residence, Robert-street, Hindmarsh, early on Saturday morning, was held at the Joiners' Arms Hotel, Hindmarsh, by Dr. Whittell. The attention of the jury was directed to some writing on a piece of notepaper found under a mat in the hall of Mr. Cullen's residence, which was not decipherable, but the police interpreted part of it thus:— "O fat old man, we mean to make it hot for you." Patrick Cullen said he was informed by his wife at 12.30 a.m. on Saturday that the coachhouse was on fire. He was in bed at the time. Looked towards the coachhouse and saw the window all ablaze. Sent the servant to ring up the fire brigade. Mrs. Cullen and his nephew took the village phaeton and dog-cart from the coachhouse. No fire had been lit in the coachhouse. Could not explain the cause of the fire. Had no suspicion of any person, but believed the fire was the wilful act of someone. Thirty shillings would cover the damage. There had been a fire on his premises on the previous Thursday night. Could not account for the origin of the first fire, either. The rubbish box into which cinders were emptied had not been kept near where the fires had occurred. Kept a dog on the premises. The servant girl reported the occurrence of the two fires. Did not know the hand writing produced. Elizabeth Cullen said that her attention was called to the fire by the servant Maggie Fergusson, who previously asked her if she had heard any

noise, as she had heard someone pass by her bedroom window. Thought probably that the noise was caused by the dog and told the girl to return to her bedroom. Believed the doors of the house had been locked before she went to bed, but was not sure. Would not have been able to have heard the door unlocked from the inside. Did not attach suspicion to anyone, but was confident that the fire was a wilful act of someone. The paper produced written upon was similar to what witness used and had in her house. Was quite satisfied with her servant, who had been with her six months. Was not home on the occasion of the fire on Thursday night. By the police—The water-marks on the blank paper produced were the same as those on the paper on which the writing was. Believed the paper was got from her house. Would not like to swear that the both sheets of paper were the same, but the blank paper was what she received notices on from the Adelaide Hospital Board and the other sheet was like it. Margaret Alice Fergusson said she had been in the employ of Mrs. Cullen about eight months. Went to bed on Friday night at 10.50 o'clock and put the candle out. Heard a noise outside under the verandah. Got up and called Mrs. Cullen. On returning to the dining-room saw a reflection coming through the dining-room window. On seeing the flames screamed and called Mrs. Cullen's nephew. Went to the Port-road and rang up the fire brigade at the alarm and ran back. Met some bakers from Mr. A. W. Ralph's bakery and told them Mr. Cullen's house was on fire. Found the note produced under the mat in the hall on Saturday morning and opened it. Mr. Cullen's nephew took it to Mrs. Cullen. Did not know the hand writing produced. The Coroner—"You did not write it?" Witness (emphatically)—"No, sir, I did not." By the jury—Did not have time to read the note as the boy took it out of her hand. The note was not under the mat on Thursday, as the hall was then swept. Was not at home when the fire occurred on Thursday night, but on her arrival saw it. She did not give the alarm of the first fire. A man in a cart did. John Cullen, a lad, stated that he was called up by Miss Fergusson. He knew nothing of how the fire occurred. F.C. James Murphy said he was on duty near Mr. Cullen's residence shortly before the fire was discovered on Saturday morning. Found a lucifer match and embers produced near the coachhouse. In consequence of the fire at the cooperage on Wednesday night and the fire at Mr. Cullen's on Thursday night had kept a good look out, and would have seen any strangers about the premises. Arthur Burnell, agent for the London, Liverpool, and Globe Fire Insurance Company, said Mr. P. Cullen's dwelling-house was insured for £850, but neither the coachhouse nor the contents were insured. The Coroner, in summing up, said the fire certainly was suspicious, but there had not been any evidence to show who started it. They had seen the writing on the note found under the mat in Mr. Cullen's hall and the writing of the servant girl and the boy, who both had given evidence. It was, however, for them to decide. He had decided to hold an in-quest, because there had last week been two other fires, one at the cooperage, near Mr. Cullen's residence, and one on Mr. Cullen's premises. The verdict of the jury was, "That the fire at Mr. P. Cullen's, residence on Saturday morning was very suspicious. but there was no evidence to show how it occurred."

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 25 January 1899, page 7

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

To the Editor.

Sir—Voluntary services are not always appreciated. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade give their services for the benefit of the people at Hindmarsh, and in doing this they lend a helping hand to fire insurance companies. Since the brigade was established in 1884 by

Superintendent J. M Reid, much valuable property has been saved from destruction by the efforts of the firemen, who has only received small recognition for effective services rendered. Only recently, within a few days, the brigade has been called out at night three times. Through their efforts the buildings occupied Messrs. Sinun and Co. were saved from destruction, and no doubt had the fire not been confined to the storeroom, contiguous dwellings would have suffered by it. I am personally indebted to the fire brigade, as my shops and dwelling were separated from Mr. Nicholls's shop, which was partly destroyed by fire on Sunday night of the 15th inst., by only a wall, and the lives of myself and family were in jeopardy. If not for the prompt efforts of the brigade the whole pile of buildings, including the Hindmarsh Post Office, would have been destroyed. As it was a portion of my premises suffered. Although I am covered by insurance I would have been a loser had I been burnt out. I suggest that a shilling subscription be made in aid of the brigade, and see no difficulty in the way of £50 being raised to present to the fire-men who risk their lives to save property without fee or reward. The fire insurance companies who have risks at Hindmarsh could supplement this sum. As the brigade numbers 24 men, inclusive of Captain J. Duncan and Lieutenants Henwood and Brown, £50, or £100, would not be much distributed between them. I have not mentioned Superintendent J. M. Reid, whose reward might take the form of a presentation, as might be decided upon, for he deserves recognition, as he established the brigade, and is the back bone of it. Although a poor man, I am willing to contribute my quota in aid of the brigade. and to do what I can to assist to maintain the esprit de corps of the men who are willing to turn out voluntarily at all hours of the day and night to prevent the destruction of peoples' property.

I am, &c., P. KNOLDER. Port-road, Hindmarsh, January 24, 1899.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 20 March 1899, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, which was established in 1884, has rendered good service, not only in the town of Hindmarsh, but in parts outside the municipal boundary. The men are accustomed to their work, and good discipline prevails. The sounding of the hooter at the Brompton gasworks is the signal for a fire call, and when this is given the firemen always turn out promptly. By their efforts much valuable property has been saved from destruction. With a view of encouraging the firemen a competition was held on Saturday afternoon in Hindmarsh-place, Hindmarsh, in front of the brigade station, in the presence of a large number of spectators, including the Mayor (Mr. C. R. Hocking) and Councillors E. Jones and J. D. Brown. The brigade is composed of a fine body of men, and they showed that they are smart and take an interest in their work. The events were well contested. The whole of the brigade —17 in all—including the officers, Superintendent J. M. Reid, Captain J. Duncan, and Lieutenants Brown and Henwood, were present. There are 24 auxiliary firemen. The teams competing were Captain Duncan with Firemen W. Fookes, H. Eckhold, S. Hocking, and G. J. Plenty; Lieutenant Brown, with Firemen C. R. Hocking, jun., E. Wakefield, A. Cave, and C. Williams; Lieutenant Henwood, with Firemen W. Caville, E. Fry, A. Hocking, and A. A. Stone. The judges and time-keepers were Major Scriven and Messrs. W. Ray and G. A. Coulthard, and the starter Superintendent Reid. The first event was the horse-reel drill. The teams of five men, including the officer, who was the driver of the horse, had to start, fully equipped, with the horse reel about 100 yards from the fire plug. They had to get to work with 100 ft. of wet hose, fix the hydrant, and play a stream of water on to a disc. Captain

Duncan's team were smart in fixing the hydrant, but when the box spanner was put on the cap to turn on the water, it was not effective. The "thimble" to suit the reduced size of the square of the tap was missing, and the team was allowed a second attempt. The results were:— Captain Duncan's team, 54 sec. Lieutenant Brown's team, 1 min. 2-5th sec. Lieutenant Kenwood's team, 1 min. 4 sec. In the hose and ladder drill with hand reel the men had to run a distance of 30 yards, open the station gates and the doors of the station, take out the hand reel, with 300 ft. of wet hose, get to work with two lengths of 100 ft., fix the hydrant about 60 yards from the station, connect four 7-ft. lengths of escape ladders, place these against the lookout platform, in the brigade station yard, mount them, and throw a jet of water on a disc. The results were:— Lieutenant Henwood's team, 1 min. 23 1-5th sec. Captain Duncan's team, 1 min. 27 sec. Lieutenant Brown's team, 1 min. 28 sec. For the Y coupling drill with hose carts the distance run was 30 yards; the station gates and doors had to be opened, the hose cart, with the hose taken out and conveyed to the fire plug, the hydrant fixed, three 50-ft. lengths of wet hose connected, and a stream of water thrown on to a disc; then 100 ft. of hose had to be disconnected, a Y coupling put on, to which two 100-ft. lengths of hose were coupled, and two jets of water simultaneously thrown on to a disc. The result was as follows:— Lieutenant Brown's team, 2 min. 12 2-5th sec. Captain Duncan's team, 2 min. 24 sec. Lieutenant Henwood's team, 3 min. 23 sec. For the one-man drill with hose-cart the firemen had to start 50 yards from the fire plug with the hose-cart, fix the hydrant, get to work with 100 ft of wet hose, and throw a jet of water on a disc. The competition ended thus:— Fireman Eckhold, 1 min. 13 3-5th sec. Fireman Fry. 1 min. 20 3-5th sec. Fireman Wakefield, 1 min. 23 sec. Fireman Wakefield fell, and Fireman Fry stumbled when starting. Subsequently a gathering took place in the brigade station, when the results were announced. The judges stated that prizes to the officers on the points gained in the events during the competition had been awarded thus:—Captain Duncan, 8 points; Lieutenant Brown, 4 points; Lieutenant Henwood, 4 points. A time penalty of two points was inflicted on Lieutenant Henwood's team for bad fixing on the hydrant. The judges expressed their satisfaction with the smartness of the respective teams. Superintendent Reid said he was proud of the brigade. That friendly contest had served to show how well the men had worked together. He hoped the firemen would continue to take the same interest in Brigade work as they had in past years.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 30 March 1899, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Wednesday evening the distribution of prizes gained at the recent competition of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade took place at the station, when Superintendent J. M. Reid presided. He presented the prizes to the teams as follows: — First event —1, Captain J. Duncan; 2, Lieutenant Brown. Second event —1, Lieutenant Henwood; 2, Captain Duncan. Third event —1, Lieutenant Brown; 2, Captain Duncan. Fourth event —1, Fireman Eckhold; 2, Fireman Fry. The officers' prize was given to Captain Duncan. The superintendent presented a framed certificate for meritorious service extending over a period of five years to Captain Duncan, who has been connected with the brigade since it was established in 1884; to Lieutenants Brown and Henwood, who have served from January, 1891; to Fireman Fry, for service from January, 1892; to Fireman Wakefield, from July, 1892; to Secretary J. E. Reid, from February, 1893; to Fireman Caville. from September, 1893; to ex-Lieutenant Robinson, who resigned in July, 1898, after a service of seven and a half years. A certificate

was also handed to Superintendent Reid, who was the founder of the brigade. A vote of thanks were given to the donors of the prizes and the judges at the recent competition.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 6 June 1899, page 3

HINDMARSH COUNCIL.

June 5.—Present—The Mayor (Mr. C. R. Hocking), Crs. Blight, Brown, Medwell, Hourigan, Jones, and King.

It was resolved to allow the fence at Market-square to remain as it is, facing Drayton-street.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 17 October 1899, page 2

FIRE AT HINDMARSH

At About 4.15 a.m. On Tuesday morning the fire alarm was sounded at the South Australian Gas Company's Works at Brompton. It was found that the draper's shop of Mr. E. Hosking's, Port-road, had become ignited through the fall of a kerosine lamp which the owner had been carrying. The flames spread, but Mr. Hosking with great presence of mind closed the door leading to the shop and gave the alarm. The brigade was quickly on the spot, but some delay was occasioned owing to the fireplug having been buried under the road metal which had recently been placed on the road, and another, instance of the need of street hydrants was afforded. The fire was soon put out, more damage in fact being done by water than by fire.

1900

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade Station number 1, Hindmarsh Place and Station 2, Ninth Street, corner of Drayton Street.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 8 June 1900, page 2

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

On Friday morning, at 4.45, a fire was discovered at Messrs. J. Sim & Co.'s cooperage, Manton-street, Hindmarsh, and the local volunteer fire brigade was called out by the sounding of the hooter at the gas works. The firemen, in charge of Captain Duncan and Lieutenants Brown and J. C. Henwood, soon arrived and extinguished the flames. The front of the cooperage is on the street alignment, with a frontage of about 80 ft., which is all covered with a roof. The centre part of the building, for a width of 20 ft., is used as a right-of-way for a short distance, and at a depth of 60 ft. from the entrance the employes make the casks. Outside the cooperage at the back was a large pile of banana-crates resting against the weather-board end of the building, and this was destroyed by the fire. The weatherboard end of the building was partly destroyed, but the total damage done is estimated at under £30. The stock is insured for £250 and the fittings for £50 in the Northern Insurance office, and the building, which is owned by the Adelaide Bank, is insured also. Neither the local police, who were amongst the first at the fire, nor Messrs. Sim & Co. were able to ascertain, the cause. Messrs. Sim & Co. have been very unfortunate with their business. On June 22. 1898, a fire occurred on their premises, and a stock of casks, of the value of from £150 to £200, was destroyed, while the building was damaged to the extent of £100 approximately. On January 11, 1899, a stock of casks was destroyed by another

conflagration and the building was damaged. On each occasion the local fire brigade, by their prompt action, rendered good service, preventing the destruction of property.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 1 December 1900, page 8

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Friday evening Superintendent John Marshall Reid gave a banquet to the members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade in the local central station, at Lindsay Circus, on the occasion of severing his connection with them after having been in charge 16 years. There were also present the Mayor (Mr. C. E. Hocking), Councillor King, Major W. Scriven (Garrison Artillery), Captain J. Duncan, and Lieutenants Brown and Henwood, the honorary surgeon (Dr. J. H. Evans), and Mr. W. Hay. Superintendent Reid presided. The toast of "The Queen" was honored. The Mayor proposed "The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade." He paid a tribute of praise to the work done by the brigade, and was sure the firemen would maintain their reputation. They pointed with pride and pleasure to the volunteer fire brigade, and he had been asked by other corporations how it was that the Hindmarsh volunteer fire brigade was kept going and maintained. His reply had been that it was because they had an enthusiastic gentleman at the head of affairs. (Applause.) He had been surprised at the enthusiasm in the movement displayed by Superintendent Reid. The metropolitan brigade had tried to push the local volunteer brigade out of existence, but the move had resulted in the latter being strengthened, as the good services of the local firemen had since been acknowledged by the insurance companies, and it had been admitted by them that the local volunteer brigade was the best in the province. (Applause.) Last year the cost of the Unley Fire Brigade was £158 13/2. Norwood and St. Peters were amalgamated. The former paid as their moiety £84 2/10, and St. Peters £42 1/6. The highest annual cost of the Hindmarsh brigade had been £40, and they now had an asset worth about £400. He touched on the great assistance given by the South Australian Gas Company and the prompt way the firemen tuned out day and night at the sound of the hooter at the Brompton gas works. If the town were under the Fire Brigade Board there would probably be one or two firemen at the central fire station, and much valuable property would be destroyed before the arrival of the city brigade. Superintendent Reid said that on November 26, 1884, Messrs. J. F. King, A. Burnell, and W. Scriven, with himself, convened a meeting for the purpose of establishing a volunteer fire brigade at Hindmarsh. This proposal was adopted, and they now had an efficient body of men able and willing at any time to turn out to save life and property. The brigade had done excellent service during the past 16 years, and they were indexed to Mr. W. Ray, engineer, of the South Australian Gas Company, for sounding the hooter and assisting with electric appliances and fire alarms. The brigade started with £60, subscribed, and £20 from the local corporation. They now had an asset of over £300 in property and appliances, which were vested in the Hindmarsh Corporation. Captain Duncan would take command as superintendent on December 1, with 20 good firemen. The brigade had attended over one hundred fires, and had saved some thousand pounds' worth of property from destruction. They started with a hand reel, but now had some splendid fire appliances, and he hoped at no distant date to find that a steamer would be added. He feelingly referred to the late Lieutenant A. Wharton, and mentioned that Fireman Fooks, one of their number, was in South Africa with the Bushmen's Contingent. The brigade had honored him with a life membership, and he hoped to be still able to assist them in some way. There had never been a disturbance among the men, which was the result of a good choice of men. He gave testimony to the help afforded by Mr. T. H. Brooker, M.P., in getting the fire alarms fixed,

and to the assistance given by the Hon. Jos. Vardon and others. The fire insurance companies during the past two years had given financial assistance. He relinquished office, feeling that he had conscientiously done his duty, and he hoped that the brigade would continue in the work under Captain Duncan as successfully as they had under him. (Applause.) Captain Duncan presented Superintendent Reid with a framed picture of the members of the brigade, and referred to the excellent services rendered to the town and brigade by him. The picture, he said, included a group of the firemen of 1884, and the brigade as now constituted. Although the superintendent would not be connected with the brigade he hoped to have his advice. (Hear, hear.) Superintendent Reid said it was not often the brigade got ahead of him, but they had in presenting him with the picture with himself as the central figure. He heartily thanked them for the mark of their esteem for him, which he would prize greatly. Mr. Ray gave "The visitors," and said that he had assisted the brigade in the past, and would still continue to do so. If Hindmarsh were to come under the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act there would be no telling the cost that would follow. Should that take place, he thought one or two steamers would be introduced, and possibly the entire cost might be between £200 or £300 per annum. Major Scriven spoke of the local brigade as a great benefit to the town. Councilor King was of the opinion that the town would not be so well served by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade as by the local one. Superintendent Reid presented Captain Duncan with a gold Maltese cross as a memento of his 16 years' work with that officer in connection with the brigade, and he proposed "The new officers of the brigade." He mentioned that Captain Duncan would be the superintendent in future. Lieutenants Brown, Henwood, Wakefield, and Dr. Evans, hon. surgeon, responded. Other toasts were honored. The Mayor distributed certificates to some of the firemen. Selections on the graphophone were given. Mr. C. A. Marten was the caterer.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 11 December 1900, page 7

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Saturday afternoon the Hindmarsh volunteer fire brigade held a competition in front of the brigade station. There was a large number of spectators, including Alderman C. R. Hocking, Councillors J. F. King, J. Smith, W. J. Ellis, and B. J. Sellick. The firemen were handicapped with low-water pressure, 32 lb. per inch, which considerably lengthened the time of the various events, and this was specially noticed in the Y coupling drill contest, as it was with difficulty that two jets of water could be played on to the disc simultaneously. The events were well contested, and the firemen showed that they were efficient, and had a good knowledge of their work. The three teams competing were each in command of an officer. They were:— Superintendent J. Duncan, with Firemen C. Stearne, K. Fry, A. Cave, A. Simpson, and W. Hocking; Captain Brown, with Lieutenant E. Wakefield, Firemen D. Davis, S. Hocking, G. J. Plenty, and the secretary (Mr. J. E. Reid); Lieutenant J. C. Henwood, with firemen W. Caville, C. R. Hocking, jun., H. Eckhold, E. Fooks, and A. A. Stone. Mr G. A. Coulthard was starter and inspector. Alderman Hocking and Councillor King timekeepers and judges. The conditions of each event were that all the hose used was to be wet, and each team to be fully equipped. The first event was the horse reel drill. Each team, excepting the officer, was on the horse reel. The start was made about 100 yards from the fire plug, and on reaching it the men got to work with 100 ft. of wet hose, fixed the hydrant, and struck a disc with a stream of water. Lieutenant Henwood's team, 1 min. 55 sec. Superintendent Duncan's team, 1 min. 55½ sec. Captain Brown's team, 2 min. 5 sec. Hose ladder drill, with

hand reel. The teams had to run 30 yards from the road to the station gate, which had to be opened, and also the doors some few yards further, take out the hand reel, with 300 ft. of hose, run it about 60 yards to the fireplug, get to work with two lengths of hose, each 100 ft., fix the hydrant, connect four 7-ft. lengths of escape ladders, place these against the lookout platform in the station yard, one man mount them, and throw a jet of water on a disc. Superintendent Duncan's team, 1 min. 24½ sec. Lieutenant Henwood's team, 1 min. 27 sec. Captain Brown's team, 1 min. 50 sec. Y coupling drill, with hose-cart. The distance run to the station was 30 yards. The gates and doors of the station had to be opened, the hose cart taken out with 250 ft. of wet hose in three lengths, and taken to the fireplug, the hydrant fixed, get to work with 50 ft., add 100 ft., and throw a stream of water on a disc 100 ft. further from the fireplug, disconnect the 100 ft., put on a Y coupling, and connect to the 50 ft. attached to hydrant two 100 ft. lengths, and throw two jets of water on to the disc simultaneously. Lieutenant Henwood's team, 1 min 58¾ sec. Superintendent Duncan's team, 2 min. 1 sec. Captain Brown's team, 2 min. 22¼ sec. One man drill with hose-cart, which contained 100 ft. of wet hose and 50 ft. of dry. The run to the fireplug was 50 yards, and on reaching it the 100ft. was run out, disconnected from the dry, attached to the hydrant, which had to be fixed, and a stream of water thrown on to the disc. Fire-man E. Fooks was first in undertaking the task, which he did very smartly. The timekeepers, however, were not attentive to their duties, and they decided that the performance should be repeated. The unofficial time in which Fooks completed his task was 1 min. 15 sec. Subsequently he had partly completed his task when it was found that the timekeepers watch had run down. and he was compelled to make a third attempt, which he did with success. When Fireman C. Stearne had partly accomplished his task he found the coupling so tight that he could not unscrew it. After a lapse of time, the difficulty was overcome by Superintendent Duncan. But for the misfortune Fireman Stearne, no doubt, would have won the event. Fireman E. Fooks, 1 min. 18¼ sec. Lieutenant E. Wakefield, 1 min. 19 sec. Fireman C. Stearne, 1 min. 23 sec. The announcement of the results was made in the brigade station as follows:— Lieutenant Henwood's team, 10 points. Superintendent Duncan's team, 5 points. Captain Brown's team, 1 point. Alderman Hocking complimented the brigade on their efficiency. Superintendent Duncan moved a vote of thanks to the starter and judges. The secretary (Mr. J. E. Reid) said they were thankful to the public who had subscribed over £20 to be distributed in prizes amongst the firemen.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 21 December 1900, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Thursday evening Mr. J. M. Reid, ex-superintendent of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, was presented with a handsome piece of furniture in the shape of a solid walnut side-board, which had been subscribed for by the citizens and the insurance societies and supplemented by the corporation by £10. The worth of the sideboard is over 80 guineas. The inscription engraved on a silver plate is as follows:— "Presented to John Marshall Reid in recognition of 16 years' service in the H.V.F.B., December 20, 1900." The Mayor, Mr. W. Blight presided, and there were over 60 people present — The chairman, in making the presentation, referred to the long service of Mr. Reid. He could bear testimony to the efficiency of the brigade, as on one occasion when a fire occurred at a place where he was manager its efforts saved at the least £1,800 worth of bark, which otherwise would have been destroyed.— The Hon. J. Vardon, M.L.C., in support said that it was while he was mayor of the town that the brigade had been properly organised and incorporated with the

town, and he was proud of it. To Mr. Reid the town owed a great debt of gratitude, for when the Fire Brigades Board would not recognise it Mr. Reid determined with the support of the corporation to so increase the efficiency of the brigade that in usefulness should be recognised.— Mr. Reid, in reply, said he must first say in regard to the position from which he had retired that he was not the Hindmarsh Brigade; he had been only the head of a strong body. In the new head, Superintendent Duncan, they had a man who would keep the brigade up to a high standard. It had attended at over a hundred fires, and saved thousands of pounds. He was glad his labours had been of benefit to the town with which he had been so long associated.— Mr. T. H. Brooker. M.P., proposed "The insurance societies." In times past they thought the societies did not do what they should to help the brigade, and he was glad to hear that they now recognised its efficiency. Messrs. J. Entwistle (of the Colonial Mutual), R. M. Steele (London and Liverpool), and R. H. Tapley (London and Lancashire) replied, and each testified that he thought the Hindmarsh brigade an exception to the usual amateur institution. It had certainly been the means of saving the societies expense.— Alderman Hocking, in proposing "The fire brigade," said the brigade should have greater support from the Government, as it really saved them a sum of money every year. The insurance societies also, even on the basis of the town of Unley, were saved £316 per year which they would have to pay as their proportion to the maintenance of a brigade under the Fire Brigades Board. Superintendent Duncan responded.— Cr. King was specially toasted for his efforts in respect to the presentation, as he had acted as hon. secretary to the committee. Light refreshments were provided, and a pleasant hour was passed. Messrs. W. J. Orchard, and T. J. Bishop contributed songs.

1901



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Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh [B 34377] Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade horsedrawn pump racing to a fire. Approximately 1901. Part of Hindmarsh Collection

1902

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 29 October 1902, page 6

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE CASE.

At the Police Court, Adelaide, on Tuesday, before Mr. J. Gordon. S.M., and justices, William E. Caville was charged on the information of William Blight with having, on August 8, while being a bailee of a cheque on the Bank of Adelaide for £6 13/, belonging to the Corporation of Hindmarsh, converted the same to his cause. Mr. J. R. Anderson, who appeared for the prosecution, obtained a remand until Thursday.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 31 October 1902, page 6

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE CASE.

At the Police Court, Adelaide, on Thursday, before Mr. J. Gordon, S.M., and justices, William Edward Cavill appeared on remand, charged on the information of William Blight with the larceny of £6 13/, the money of the Hindmarsh Corporation, while being the bailee of a cheque on the Bank of Adelaide on August 8, Mr. J. R. Anderson appeared for the informant. It was shown in evidence that the defendant was treasurer of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and as the result of a meeting that was held the corporation officers were appointed a committee to examine his books. A shortage of £23 17/5 was found, and when asked by the committee what he had to say Cavill replied, "Nothing." Upon being questioned as to what proposition he would make, he replied that he was willing to pay off 10/ a fortnight. The chairman of the committee subsequently told him he would have to pay the whole amount within 48 hours. The defendant did not pay it. Cavill reserved his defence, and was committed for trial.

1903

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 4 February 1903, page 6

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

HINDMARSH.

February 2.

To Councillor Wright the Mayor said the fire reel in Market-square, Bowden, was under the control of the council. Resolved, that the local fire brigade's attention be directed to the bad state of the shed and reel.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 9 February 1903, page 6

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

DRAPER'S SHOP GUTTED.

On Saturday evening, at about a quarter past 9, some lace or art muslin in the shop of Mr. W. L. Glastonbury, Port road, Hindmarsh accidentally became ignited. It seemed only a few seconds before the shop was one mass of flames. A youth named Ernest Shaw, who was standing on the opposite side of the road, immediately rushed to the fire alarm. One of the

firemen of the local Volunteer Brigade happened to be in a barber's shop next to Mr. Glastonbury's establishment, and with all possible dispatch he got out the hose, cart, and appliances from the station in Chief street. The reel was promptly on the scene, and a volume of water was soon being directed upon the flames. It was at once seen that there was no hope of saving the draper's shop, so the efforts of the men were confined to prevent the conflagration from spreading. The barber's shop adjoining is a wooden building, but with the exception of broken windows and a little damage from water, it suffered no harm. Mr. Kernick's large draper shop, next to this building, was in danger for a time, as the flames reached the verandah and scorched the woodwork. The Land of Promise Hotel, on the Adelaide side of the burning building, also seemed in danger, as it was filled with smoke. By the help of willing hands valuables and furniture were removed from the rooms adjacent to the burning premises. Books and other inflammable material were also taken from Kernick's, and the occupants of other parts of the block got out their belongings. Superintendent J. Duncan directed the efforts of the local brigade. Cpt. Brown. Lieuts. Henwood and Wakefield, with 10 men were present, and they did splendid work. In the circumstances it was a highly creditable performance to prevent the spread of the flames. At first the pressure of water was very poor, only a dribble being obtainable, but after the police had called the attention of the Water Work Department to the matter, a welcome improvement was noticeable. Hindmarsh has no local turncock now, though in the past a man was available to give ready assistance in this direction. A large tank of water, which was at the back of Mr. Kernick's premises, was utilized by workers with buckets, and doubtless this was a factor in the prevention of the extension of the fire. The premises destroyed belong to Mr. G. A. Parker, and are partially insured for £500 in the Alliance Insurance Company. The stock of Mr. Glastonbury was also insured. Unfortunately Superintendent Duncan was burnt on the face and hands, while he was engaged in fighting the flames at a critical moment. He also had a narrow escape from a fall down a cellar.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 14 February 1903, page 44



FIRE AT W. L. GLASTONBURY'S SHOP, PORT-ROAD, HINDMARSH. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7.
THE RUINED BUILDINGS.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 23 February 1903, page 2

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The enquiry by the Hindmarsh Town Council concerning the efficiency of the local volunteer fire brigade will be commenced this evening in the council chamber. The mayor (Mr. J. F. King) has asked the Fire Insurance Underwriters' Association, the Fire Brigades Board, Superintendent Booker, and the manufacturers of Hindmarsh to give evidence. The brigade has a central station in Lindsay Circus, in which there is a horse-reel, with 500 ft. of hose; a hand-reel, with 400 ft.; a manual fire engine, scaling ladders, and other necessary appliances. There is a lookout structure above the stable, and a horse is kept on the premises. In the station there is a large electric bell and a telephone connected with the Brompton gasworks, and shutters to indicate from which fire alarm the signal of fire has been given. The ringing of either of the street fire alarms sets the electric bell in the central station in motion simultaneously with the ringing of the electric bell in the engine-room at the gasworks, and the hooter is at once sounded. A prolonged sound of the hooter indicates that the fire is on the south side of the Port-road, and consecutive sounds that it is on the north side of the Port-road. There are five branch stations, and in each is kept a hose-cart, with 400 ft. of hose, with necessary appliances. These five branch stations and fire alarms are in Gibson-street, Bowden; West-street, Brompton; the intersection of Government-road and the Port-road; the intersection of Chief-street and the Port-road; and Adam-street, Hindmarsh. One

extra fire alarm is fixed at the corner of Manton-street and Richard-street, Hindmarsh. The branch stations are respectively in charge of fire men who reside in close proximity.

During the past two years, while Superintendent J. Duncan has been in charge, the brigade has attended 12 fires and responded to six false alarms. On public holidays two firemen are on duty at the central station from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m., and the superintendent, since the fire at Mr. W. L. Glastonbury's shop, has arranged for two firemen to be on duty on the Port-road until the shops are closed. In his report to the Hindmarsh Council on Monday last Superintendent Duncan stated that the brigade was never in a better position than now. The brigade numbers 15 men and there are several auxiliaries. It is intended to strengthen the brigade numerically.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 25 February 1903, page 9

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Monday evening the Hindmarsh Corporation held an enquiry into the question of protection against fire. Incidentally the efficiency of the local volunteer fire brigade was also dealt with. Superintendent Duncan reported that for the protection of the town they had the central station in Lindsay circus, and reel sheds in West Hindmarsh, Port road, Gibson street, West street, and Adam street; they had a manual fire engine if required; one horse reel and horse, six hand reels and hose carts, seven hydrants, eight branches, 3,000 ft. of hose, and other necessary gear. There were 15 members besides auxiliaries, and five of these could always be depended upon in the daytime, and the majority of the members at night. On Holidays two men were always told off for duty, and others arranged to be in the town, so that the town was never left unprotected. There were six alarms connected both with the gasworks and the central station, and a telephone was in communication with the gasworks, where the alarm was sounded. The alarm was arranged to indicate the ward where the fire had broken out, and as members were scattered all over the town, those residing nearest the outbreak immediately got out the hand reel from the shed in the locality, and were promptly at the scene of the fire. This was practically the protection afforded by the brigade, and in existing circumstances it was sufficient for the protection of the town. The water pressure made it impossible to combat a fire, and a means of greater efficiency would be a steamer. One or more men constantly on duty at the station would greatly add to the effectiveness of the brigade. In regard to the low pressure, matters would be improved if the Government would allow them to use the stop valves. The pressure was only about 45 lb. at its best, and was as low as 13 lb. As the town was increasing a station and alarm would have to be provided for North Croydon, and a few more fire alarms were necessary. The membership of the brigade was being increased. Mr. T.H.Smeaton (Chairman of the Fire Brigades Board) said that he was present to hear what was wanted, and if assistance were required the board would willingly render it. (Hear, hear.) Although the board had the management of permanent bodies they did not depreciate the services of volunteers. Judging from the correspondence in the papers one would imagine that the board did, but he was there to say that they had no such idea. All honour to the volunteers. Whatever the board could do would be done for the encouragement of volunteers. There was a clause in the Fire Brigades Act which compelled all volunteer brigades to register, but the board had not enforced it, and it was the duty of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade to register and the duty of the board to register them. If they came under the Act the corporation would have no voice in the matter of finances, but the board were urgent in

their views of economy, and would only authorize what they considered necessary. If then a steamer was bought the corporation would only have to pay their proportion, viz.. two-ninths. Superintendent Booker said that they found an important town having many fire risks—which exceeded in value from £30,000 to £40,000, and in some cases much more, and without disparaging the efforts of the members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, who should get every credit for what they had done in the past as a purely volunteer body, the question must naturally arise, were all those interested satisfied with what might occur in the present arrangements? In his opinion as an expert Hindmarsh was practically unprotected against an outbreak of fire, and his reasons for saying so were based upon practical commonsense. It was imperative that at least a small staff of permanent men should be in constant attendance day and night to rapidly turn out for the purpose of checking a fire in its incipient stages. That had been proved over and over again. Practically speaking, the Hindmarsh Brigade was more on the lines of a private fire brigade or brigades organised for the purpose of protecting mutual interests, which was a very good plan. Admitting that there was a low-pressure water system, it must be borne in mind that, there was a fairly good flow. It therefore became the duty of those responsible that suitable appliances should be provided to suit the low pressure water system, A special steam engine constructed for the purpose was a necessity, as no body of men could do satisfactory work without proper tools. The steamers which they had in Adelaide would be of no use as they were for this purpose; at the same time they could not expect the Government to provide a special high-pressure water system for the town of Hindmarsh. Providing the Government supplied sufficient water with a good flow it was their duty to provide pressure. There appeared to be a scarcity of turncocks, both in the city and suburbs, and that matter again threw further responsibility and expense on those who were responsible to the rate payers. He presumed the question which the council wished to determine was whether Hindmarsh was adequately protected or otherwise. In his opinion it was not. His reasons for that statement were— 1. Owing to the low water pressure system suitable fire appliances were required which were not in possession of the volunteer brigade. 2. A small permanent staff of firemen were required to keep the appliances in good working order and ready for turning out at a moment's notice. With respect to Hindmarsh coming under the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act that was a matter for the Hindmarsh Council to determine. It then became—if they made such an application—the duty of those representing the various contributions to recommend or otherwise that the Act should be extended to that town. He had all the control which he personally required over all brigades in South Australia, which included the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. In reply to questions, Mr. Booker said that with a few permanent men worked in conjunction with the present volunteer brigade and an engine, ample protection could be provided. Cr. Wright asked Mr. Booker to explain more fully what he meant by saying that Hindmarsh was practically without protection, but Mr. Booker said he was not there to be catechized by any Councillor. He was an expert of many years' standing. In his opinion in an area of 10 miles from Adelaide fire protection was needed, and the whole needed remodelling, so that each place could be called upon to help the others. Mr. J. M. Reid, late Superintendent of the Hindmarsh Brigade, said he was pleased to see the way in which the Chairman of the board had approached the question. It was in the right. The Hindmarsh Brigade had been started in self-protection, and had been successful for many years. With reference to registration he would like to point out that when the Fire Brigades Act came into force he applied for Hindmarsh to be registered as No. 1 Volunteer Fire Brigade, and he was informed that unless the brigade came under the Act it could not be

done. Consequently registration had not taken place. The water pressure was getting worse, and would have to be coped with. The board would doubtless inform the corporation what was required and give a limitation of the cost, and then the council could consider the question all round. Several manufacturers, who could not be present, forwarded their views in writing. Mr. A. Dowie thought it would be best for the Brigade to be under the Fire Brigades Board, and that the present low water pressure should be improved. Mr. W. L. Glastonbury, a sufferer from a recent fire, considered that the local brigade had done all that was possible in the circumstances. He made several suggestions. Mr. P. J. Payne, owner of the premises called the Beehive, where Hender's draper's shop was burned out a little while ago, said that the brigade rendered splendid service at that fire, and in the course of conversation with Mr. Genders, the adjuster of fire claims, that gentleman expressed his surprise that so little damage had been done by water. Messrs. J. Shaw expressed no opinion regarding the brigade, but complained of the low water pressure. The representative of Mr. G. Marks said that it would be advisable to come under the Fire Brigades Board. It was resolved to ask the Fire Brigades Board to supply particulars as to what was necessary, and also of the approximate cost, and the enquiry was adjourned.

The Advertiser, Tuesday 24th March 1903 page 5

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

On Monday evening the enquiry conducted by the Hindmarsh Town Council committee into the efficiency of the local Volunteer Fire Brigade was continued. There were present, the Mayor (Mr. J. F. King), Aldermen Hocking and Medwell, Councillors Ellis, Biggs, Wright, Ruthven, Blight, and Dring.

The report of Superintendent Booker, of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, on the better protection of Hindmarsh was supplied by the Fire Brigades Board. It showed that he had inspected the town of Hindmarsh and the plant in possession of the local brigade. Taking into consideration the importance of the town and the class of risks which have to be protected, it would be necessary to build an up-to-date fire-station on or near the Port-road, which should be fitted with every convenience for rapid turning-out, the present station being unsuitable for requirements. Owing to the low pressure of water it would be imperative that a steam fire-engine should be purchased, especially designed to suit the requirements of the district. It would be necessary to keep three horses at the station—two for the steam fire-engine and one for the horse-reel now in use. Telephonic communication should be established with the head fire-station in the city for the purpose of informing headquarters upon receipt of a call to a fire. This would enable the officer in charge to send on the North Adelaide reel to the assistance of the local brigade, which would, if necessary, be quickly followed by other appliances from the city. These considerations enabled him to estimate the number of men to be permanently employed at the lowest possible limit.

Under the two systems proposed by him the plant of the local volunteer brigade would be taken over at a valuation, so as to keep down expenses as low as possible. The first scheme of employing a small staff to work in conjunction with volunteer fire-men would, in his opinion, work well; but the second, namely, a permanent brigade, would be more reliable, although he recommended that a trial be given to the first scheme, provided the council decided to come under the Fire Brigades Act. The cost of the first scheme of permanent and

volunteer firemen combined would be as follows:—Installation, inclusive of £475 for steam fire engine, and £300 for the Hindmarsh plant, £971 0/6; maintenance, &c., one officer and three permanent men, £804 10/; total, £1,775 10/6. Payable by insurance companies, £789 2/5; Government, £591 16/10; Hindmarsh Corporation, £394 11/3. A memorandum by the Fire Brigades Board stated that three permanent men were stated as a minimum, but the board considered it probable, and it would be found necessary, to put on an additional man. The report continued—The cost of maintenance under the second scheme for the second and following years was estimated at £879 10/, payable as follows:— Insurance companies, £390 17/9; Government, £293 3/4; corporation, £195 8/11. Scheme 2—Permanent firemen, inclusive of one steam fire engine and cost of Hind-marsh plant, £1,021 15/3; maintenance, &c., one officer and five firemen, £1,072 15/; total, £2,094 10/3. Payable as follows:— Insurance companies, £930 17/11; Government, £698 3/5; corporation, £465 8/11. Estimate for second and following years, £1,174 13/. Payable by insurance companies, £522 1/4; Government, £391 11/; corporation, £261.

Superintendent J. Duncan reported on the various appliances in possession of the local brigade and the branch stations. There were, he said, 18 firemen, including himself, a captain, and three lieutenants, with six auxiliaries, who could be depended upon. The branch stations had proved to be of great value. Extra precaution was taken on holidays, when two men were on duty at the head fire station, and for further protection the brigade "was prepared to take sleeping duty at the head station every night for five to six months in the summer, and also Sunday duty, for which we want a grant of £20 per annum." He would like the manual fire engines "put into commission," as it would be a great help when the water pressure was low, and would deliver 120 gallons of water at 60 strokes per minute. The cost of this would amount to between £30 and £40.

The reports were received.

Councillor Wright moved—"That this council is perfectly satisfied with the efficiency of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and expresses the opinion that the ratepayers are amply protected in case of fire." He believed that if the council were to take greater interest in the local brigade it would be encouraging to the firemen, who had done great service in the past. It would be impossible to come under the Fire Brigades Board on the grounds of expense, and should they do so they would only have one delegate to represent the council. Councillor Dring seconded.

Alderman Medwell—Have the discouraging statements made against the local brigade had a bad effect on the firemen. Superintendent Duncan—No; on the contrary, they have had the effect of making them more enthusiastic in their work.

Councillor Blight, on the grounds of economy, supported, and pointed out that one or two manufacturers were anxious for in-creased protection, but the council had not been approached by them. If it were pointed out to the Underwriters' Association that the residents of Hindmarsh were satisfied with the volunteer fire brigade, no doubt they would give financial assistance.

Alderman Medwell said that if Mr. Booker's proposals were adopted a rate would have to be levied to cover the expenses, and as recently a twopenny lighting rate had been levied, the ratepayers could not bear another rate for the fire brigade. Alderman Hocking supported.

The Mayor said that although he sympathised with the local brigade, the time was not far distant when they must come under the Fire Brigades Board and have a permanent brigade, but at present they could not afford the expenditure. It was absolutely essential that a permanent man should be in constant attendance at the central station. Although the ratepayers might be opposed to the claim of some of the manufacturers for increased fire protection on the ground of expense, they should not forget that a large number of men were employed at the factories, and if any of the establishments were destroyed by fire a number of men would be out of work. It would be cheaper to have a combined brigade of permanent men with the present brigade, but Superintendent Duncan had told them that the present firemen would not work with a permanent brigade in the way indicated. The Fire Brigades Board had promised him under present circumstances to give all necessary assistance, and the Government would not force the volunteer brigade to register. The fire insurance companies might also assist. The motion was carried unanimously.

Superintendent Duncan expressed his thanks for the confidence placed in the local brigade.

The Advertiser, Wednesday 6th May 1903 page 9

The Mayor was delegated with power to arrange with W. T. Rundle for erecting on his property in Bowden the branch fire station. Alderman Medwell—Have the discouraging statements made against the local brigade had a bad effect on the firemen " Superintendent Duncan—No; on the contrary, they have had the effect of making them more enthusiastic in their work. Councillor Blight, on the grounds of economy, supported, and pointed out that one or two manufacturers were anxious for increased protection, but the council had not been approached by them. If it were pointed out to the Underwriters' Association that the residents of Hindmarsh were satisfied with the volunteer fire brigade, no doubt they would give financial assistance. Alderman Medwell said that if Mr. Booker's proposals were adopted a rate would have to be levied to cover the expenses, and as recently a twopenny lighting rate had been levied, the ratepayers could not bear another rate for the fire brigade. Alderman Hocking supported. The Mayor said that although he sympathised with the local brigade, the time was not far distant when they must come under the Fire Brigades Board and have a permanent brigade, but at present they could not afford the expenditure. It was absolutely essential that a permanent man should be in constant attendance at the central station. Although the ratepayers might be opposed to the claim of some of the manufacturers for increased fire protection on the ground of expense, they should not forget that a large number of men were employed at the factories, and if any of the establishments were destroyed by fire a number of men would be out of work. It would be cheaper to have a combined brigade of permanent men with the present brigade, but Superintendent Duncan had told them that the present firemen would not work with a permanent brigade in the way indicated. The Fire Brigades Board had promised him under present circumstances to give all necessary assistance, and the Government would not force the volunteer brigade to register. The fire insurance companies might also assist. The motion was carried unanimously. Superintendent Duncan expressed his thanks for the confidence placed in the local brigade.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 12 May 1903, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Monday evening at the meeting of the Hindmarsh Council the Mayor (Mr. J. F. King reported that a committee had held a conference with the executive of the fire brigade as to further protection against fire. The superintendent (Mr. J. Duncan) reported that for £20 per year extra grant arrangements could be made for two firemen to sleep at the station every night during the six hottest months in the year, and all the year round for about £50. They had an auxiliary fire-man living opposite the central fire station, who would also be available in case of fire, so that the horse reel could be immediately manned by three men on an alarm being given. A special effort on the part of the secretary to collect funds for the brigade had been well responded to, and would enable them to have the manual fire engine put into effective condition and properly equipped without any expense to the corporation. The liabilities of the brigade at the present were about £28, and several of the men required new clothes and equipment. Some extra fire alarms were also needed. The committee decided to recommend the payment of part of the year's grant to the brigade, and also that a deputation wait on the Underwriters' Association, with a view of getting some annual assistance from them to enable the brigade to give the extra protection indicated. The report was adopted. It was resolved to wait on the Underwriters' Association to ask them to give financial assistance to the fire brigade. Councillor Blight remarked that if more funds were not available the brigade would have to come under the Fire Brigades Board, which would make it more costly to the association.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 13 May 1903, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Tuesday evening a parade in full uniform of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade took place. Taking all their appliances, the members started from the town hall, marched down Gibson street, Bowden, along West street, and thence back to the town hall. Arrived there, the drama "Ten Nights in a Barroom" was staged by the Walkerville Dramatic Club in the presence of a fairly large audience. The proceeds were devoted to the funds of the brigade. The plot, to illustrate the evils arising from intemperance, was easy to follow throughout, the acting being, on the whole, good. Mr. F. Wallis as Joe Morgan, a drunkard, gave a correct portrayal of that character, and was also seen to advantage when reformed. Humour was supplied by Mr. Hay Walsh as Sample Swichell. The villain of the piece, Harvey Green, was fairly well represented by Mr. Arthur Peck, and the part of the drunkard's wife was creditably taken by Miss Eva McRostie. Of the other actors Miss Rosa Wallis and Mr. L. Buderick appeared most natural. Appended is the cast of characters:— Joe Morgan (the drunkard), Mr. F. Wallis; Sample Swichell (a good-hearted Yankee), Mr. Ray Walsh; Mr. Romaine (true to the cause of temperance), Mr. H. L. Packer; Harvey Green (bad to the core), Mr. Arthur Peck; Willie Hammend (a fast lad), Mr. Howard Field; Simon Slade (landlord of the Sickie and Sheaf), Mr. L. Baderick; Frank Slade (his son), Mr. Roy Warren; Ned (the loafer), Mr. Charles Badger; Sodawater Bill, Mr. J. Herbert; Ginger Joe, Mr. C. Ritchie; Mrs. Morgan (the fond wife), Miss Eva McRostie; Little Mary (the drunkard's child), Miss Rosa Wallis; Mehitable (a romantic girl), Miss Renie Teague; Mrs. Slade (homely and good), Miss Edith Burton. The stage manager was Mr. F. Wallis, assistant stage manager Mr. L. Buderick, and the music was by Miss Lizzie Mc-Donald.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 9 June 1903, page 4

FIRE AT WEST HINDMARSH.

On Monday at midday a fire occurred in the shop owned by Mr. F. J. Mann, at the corner of Albermarle street, and the Port road, in West Hindmarsh. Mr. A. Bushell was passing the place, and, noticing smoke issuing from the roof went to the nearest alarm and the gasworks horn promptly proclaimed to the neighbourhood that a fire was in progress. Within a minute and a half the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was on the scene, but not before a crowd of 300 or 400 people had collected. With admirable promptitude the reel was fixed, and a good stream of water played upon the burning materials. The shop is a grocery and drapery establishment, and Superintendent Duncan ordered the removal of the kerosine in the store before anything else was touched. This prudent step probably prevented the damage being much greater than it actually was. It being a holiday the proprietor of the shop and Mrs. Mann had gone to the beach, consequently they knew nothing of the fire until it had been put out. A friend of theirs caught the first train to the Grange, and within an hour the owner arrived in his trap at the scene of desolation, having driven the four miles in 15 minutes. The loss he suffered is considerable, but owing to the efforts of the firemen the fire was restricted to the shop, and no damage whatever was done to the dwelling adjoining it. The origin of the fire is not known, but it is supposed to have started under the shop counter. Possibly some matches nibbled by mice were the means of commencing the conflagration. The place was completely gutted, and little can possibly be made by salvage. The stock was, we understand, insured for £150, but the fittings, such as counters and shelves, were not covered by insurance.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 12 June 1903, page 6

THE HINDMARSH FIRE.

The City Coroner has decided not to hold an inquest on the fire, that occurred in Mr. F. J. Mann's shop, Hindmarsh West, on Monday last.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 23 June 1903, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Monday evening at the meeting of the Hindmarsh Council, the Mayor (Mr. J. F. King) reported that a deputation had waited on the Underwriters' Association, and from what had been said by members of that body he was almost warranted in believing that something would be contributed annually to the local fire brigade. The association had a rule that contributions were not to be given to volunteer fire brigades, but he was hopeful that this would be relaxed in the case of Hindmarsh. It was agreed by the council, at the instance of the brigade, to guarantee that all moneys voted by the association to the brigade should be duly accounted for, and that a report be presented at stated intervals showing the time men spend on duty, and giving particulars of all fires.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 2 July 1903, page 11

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The recent enquiry by the Hindmarsh Town Council into the efficiency of the local volunteer fire brigade resulted in a resolution of confidence in it being passed, and this action has inspired the firemen with fresh energy. The strength of the brigade has been increased to 20, and there are 15 auxiliaries. Superintendent J. Duncan, who has been connected with the brigade since 1884, when it was established, is the only original member. For a number of years he was captain, and for nearly three years he has been the chief officer. A fresh

incentive has been given to the brigade by the promised support of the Underwriters' Association, and it is intended that two firemen shall be on night duty at the central station so as to be in readiness to respond promptly to a call out in case of fire. The local manufacturers have liberally given financial assistance. The annual contribution of the local council is £40, and the brigade is now in a good position. All the fire appliances are in good order. On Wednesday evening the quarterly inspection took place at the central station, when 17 firemen responded to the roll call, and there were a few auxiliaries present. Superintendent Duncan, who appeared in a new uniform, expressed satisfaction with the appearance of the firemen. Subsequently, he said, it had been their custom to present a certificate to each fireman after five years' service, and he had now to present Lieutenant J. C. Henwood, who after eleven years' service had to retire owing to affliction, with a long-service gold medal. He eulogised Lieutenant Henwood for his past excellent services, and paid the same compliment to Mr. J. E. Reid for his eleven years' serving as secretary of the brigade, and regretted that he had retired from office. The superintendent, on behalf of the brigade, presented to Mr. J. E. Reid an illuminated address. Lieutenant Henwood, in accepting the presentation, said he had only done his duty, and although an auxiliary he would still continue to do his best in assisting the brigade. Mr. J. E. Reid expressed his appreciation of the testimonial, and complimented Superintendent Duncan on the efficiency of the brigade. He was sure that under the guidance of Mr. Duncan the brigade would continue to prosper. The secretary (Mr. W. S. Dover) said that when he accepted office there was a liability of £30. He had waited on the leading manufacturers of Hindmarsh, who had shown their appreciation of the brigade by contributing liberally towards the funds, and over £100 was already subscribed.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 16 July 1903, page 4

A CURIOUS ALARM OF FIRE.

On Wednesday, a minute or two before 12.30 p.m., the residents of Hindmarsh and Bowden were startled by hearing the gas works hooter boom forth. Taking it for granted that a fire was in progress a crowd of people— many, of whom were going home to dinner— immediately ran in the direction indicated by the hooter's blowing— Gibson street, Bowden. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade arrived on the scene in excellent time, while the police were not far behind. However, no fire was discoverable, and it was at first thought to be a hoax. Presently a youngster gave the correct explanation of the mystery. A haycarter passing under the telephone wires found that his load was too high to go under. He therefore jumped up on the load and lifted up the wires with his fork. In doing so he must have twisted them, and a person happening to "ring up" someone at that instant the bell at the gasworks began to tinkle. The watchman there obeyed the call, with the result mentioned.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 1 September 1903, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Monday evening at the meeting of the Hindmarsh Council the Mayor (Mr. J. F. King) stated that the Underwriters' Association had decided to contribute to the funds of the local fire brigade on certain conditions, provided also that the corporation and the Government contributed an equal amount. He stated that it was reported that the State Government were prepared to pay the Federal Government for the use of the fire alarms, which would cost £50 per annum. The annual grant of the corporation to the brigade was £75.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 5 October 1903, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

Two men of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade are now on duty nightly, and on Sundays and holidays at the central station in Lindsay Circus. The new order of things was commenced on Thursday last, and will be continued for some months. There is now telephonic communication between the station and the residence of Superintendent Duncan.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 18 November 1903, page 6

SMALL FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

On Tuesday, at 2.20 p.m., the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to attend a fire in the backyard of Mr. F. J Mann, on the Port-road near the local post-office. The firemen were quickly on the scene, when they found that a quantity of paper left in a large box had been set a alight by children. The flames were extinguished before the arrival of the brigade.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 20 November 1903, page 6

FIRE NEAR CROYDON.

ROPEWORKS PARTIALLY DESTROYED.

Messrs. G. P. Harris, Scarfe, & Co.'s Adelaide rope works, which abut on the Port Adelaide railway line for some distance between the Bowden and Croydon stations, were considerably damaged by fire on Thursday afternoon. At 2.15 the hooter at the Brompton Gas Works sounded the alarm, and the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, under Superintendent Duncan, turned out quickly. One man ran to the hose cart, which is kept just behind the ropeworks, on the Port-road, and arrived at the fire two minutes after the call had been given, whilst within four minutes all the members of the brigade and the rest were present. They started to attack the flames at the eastern and western ends of the fire, and prevented them from extending beyond the central portion of the rope walk.

About 300 ft. of the walk, consisting of woodwork and galvanized iron, was totally destroyed, and a building, 25 ft. by 15 ft., which contained coir, yarn, and Russian hemp, was soon ablaze. The contents of the building were destroyed. Through the efforts of the brigade and the employes and others the flames were prevented from spreading to the main building of the works. Had they done so and got a good hold of the place, the whole brigade force of South Australia would not have been able to save the building from destruction on account of the inflammable nature of the contents, which are used in the manufacturing of rope. A good portion of the new part of the rope walk, which had been recently constructed, was destroyed. The storeroom also was almost gutted, and the machine used in twisting the strands of hemp, etc., into rope was in the midst of the fire, which was extinguished about 4.30 p.m. The whole of the property was worth between £6,000 and £7,000, and was interred in the Norwich Union and South British offices.

The extent of the damage that has been done is difficult to estimate, as much will depend upon the quantity of hemp that has been burnt. Estimates of damage to the extent of £500, and even considerably over that sum, however, were made. One most unfortunate aspect in connection with the fire is that the firm have a great demand for ropes, and they will be

unable to restart operations at their works for a fortnight or three weeks. Mr. R. L. Smith, one of the managing directors of Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co., was at the fire soon after the outbreak was reported, and Mr. J. Taylor, the manager of the works, was on the scene the whole time.

1904

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 1 February 1904, page 4

A MEAN TRICK.

At 1 a.m. on Sunday a trick was played on the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade by someone, who rang the fire alarm at the intersection of Gibson-street and Ninth-street, Bowden, and then ran off. The hooter at the gasworks was sounded, and Fireman G. J. Plenty, who resides about 100 yards from the alarm, quickly ran to it, when he discovered that the glass had been broken and that there was no one present to give information. The horse-reel from the central station arrived in less than three minutes, which is considered smart work. The local police were just as prompt, but notwithstanding their efforts the idiot who was the cause of the trouble was not caught. Fifteen firemen, inclusive of Superintendent J. Duncan and Captain Brown, responded to the call, and all were disgusted with the trick played on them. The false alarms are vexatious to the firemen, and tend to disorganise them. They were so frequent some time ago that the local town council offered a reward of £10 for information leading to the conviction of any person ringing up the brigade without cause. Super-intendent Duncan has worked up the brigade to a good state of efficiency, and during the past four months he has had two firemen on duty at the central station on Lindsay-circus from 7 p.m. till 6 a.m. and all day on Sunday. This rule will be observed, during the summer months.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 16 August 1904, page 7

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

Although the fire brigade at Hindmarsh is composed of members whose services are given voluntarily, the efforts in saving from fire are usually successful, thanks to the enthusiasm of the men. Whenever a call out is made the response is readily given, and the value of the brigade as a firefighter is recognised, not only by the local residents, but Adelaide underwriters have expressed their appreciation of the brigade's services. On Monday evening, at the Hindmarsh Council meeting, the annual balance sheet of the brigade was presented. It showed that, owing principally to the efforts of the secretary, the institution was in a satisfactory financial position. Cr. Wright complimented the brigade for the highly satisfactory condition of its affairs, and moved— "That the council record its thanks to and appreciation of services of the superintendent (Mr. J. Duncan), the secretary (Mr. W. S. Dover), and officers and men for the effective manner in which the brigade had been conducted. When compared with the cost of maintenance which would occur if affiliated with the Adelaide board he thought the cost to the corporation was small. He also moved that the Commissioner of Public Works be written to expressing thanks for the Government's grant to the town by extending the telephone to the superintendent's house. This had been of great convenience. The Mayor considered the balance sheet and report gratifying, and the corporation had every reason to convey thanks. The motion was carried. The balance sheet, which was adopted, showed: —Receipts from private subscriptions collected by secretary, £92; corporation grants, £80; donation, Fire Underwriters'

Association, £50; Government grant (8 fire alarms, 1 telephone), £52; Hindmarsh Corporation allowances, exclusive of grants, £43. Expenditure— Fodder, &c, £32; honorarium to men taking on night duty for 6½ months, renovation of station, &c., £61; clothing and repairs, £31; station requirements, extra appliances, Port Road Station, £85; rentals, electrical appliances, £88; and cash in bank. £24.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 17 October 1904, page 4

FIRE AT BANKSIDE.

HARDY'S CELLARS DESTROYED.

WINE PUMPED ON THE FIRE.

A BRAVE HELPER SCALDED.

LOSS ESTIMATED AT £20,000.

A fire resulting in enormous loss broke out at the winery in connection with Messrs. T. Hardy & Sons' vineyards at Bankside on Saturday afternoon. The property is situated in the district of Underdale, between Thebarton and Hindmarsh, and some of the best wines made in South Australia have been produced by these vineyards, which are nearly 50 years old.

How the Alarm was Raised.

At about 1.15 p.m. on Saturday, Miss Hardy saw flames rising from the centre of the cellar buildings, which are situated about 30 yards from the two-storey house in which Mr. Hardy resides. The engine whistle was sounded, and the employes, together with Mr. Robert Hardy and Mr. T. A. Hardy, soon arrived on the scene, but by this time the cellars, which are well stocked with wine, had caught alight. They soon realised that there was no possible chance of dealing with the fire with the means that were available, as water was exceedingly scarce, the contingency of a serious fire not having been guarded against by the proprietors. Although the River Torrens runs close by there was no method of obtaining a copious supply of water thence, while the nearest main was fully a quarter of a mile away. Amongst the first outsiders to arrive was Constable Moloney, the officer in charge of the Thebarton police-station. He lent valuable assistance, and sent a man to telephone for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. At 1.40 p.m. the hooter at the Brompton gasworks sounded an alarm, and Lieutenant E. Wakefield, who was at the central brigade station in Lindsay Circus, was soon ready with the horse reel. In a very short time Superintendent J. Duncan, in charge of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was at the scene of the fire. The firemen, however, were powerless to act, as there was not a supply of water at hand. Half an hour later Superintendent Booker, with the metropolitan brigade arrived, and he was in the same fix as the volunteer brigade. There is a water main along the road near Holbrook's-bridge, over a quarter of a mile away from the winery, and the superintendents decided to couple the hoses together to cover the distance, about 500 ft. of the Hindmarsh hose being employed in that service. Before a stream of water could be thrown on the flames the buildings were almost destroyed. The firemen worked well, and Superintendent Booker deserves great praise for the manner in which he coped with a difficult problem. The Hindmarsh Brigade rendered considerable assistance, and Superintendent Booker spoke in complimentary terms of the help they gave.

Rivers of Wine.

The cellars, where the fire broke out, were well stocked with wine, stored for the most part in large vats. As the heat increased the vats burst, and the sparkling wine poured out in streams, overflowed the walks around the doomed buildings, and saturated the ground. "What a pity." said a thirsty soul, "that all this good stuff is running away and no one can drink it." Had the covetous individual attempted to slake his thirst with the wine that was running in rivulets from the buildings, he would undoubtedly have asked for a drop of water to cool his tongue, as much of the liquid was almost at boiling point. Mr. Samuel Skinner, a butcher, was unfortunate enough to have both legs right up to his thighs severely scalded with the hot wine in the early stage of the conflagration. He went down the cellar under the dwelling occupied by Mr. T. Hardy, ran along an underpass for some distance to reach the wine cellars so that he might close the iron doors erected to cut off communication between the two premises, and thus prevent the flames extending to the house. Suddenly there came down this channel a rush of wine heated nearly to boiling point, and Mr. Skinner was almost overcome. Timely aid was given and he was rescued, and big injuries were attended to subsequently by Dr. Niesche.

Wine to Extinguish Flames.

A large quantity of wine was used as a substitute for water in the work of extinguishing the flames. For nearly two hours the firemen, under the direction of Mr. Booker, threw from the steamer two streams of wine upon the fire, and they looked extremely pretty as they glistened in the sunlight. The feed-pipe of the steamer was connected with the house cellar, and a constant and full supply of wine was obtained, as after it had been played on the flames a large quantity flowed back to the lower level again, and helped to form a fresh supply. Some of course, evaporated as a result of the heat. When the steamer ceased its operations there was still over 6 in. of wine over the floor of the cellar below. The spirit in the wine produced attractive effects as it came in contact with the flames. When the fire had apparently subsided another vat would burst, and the wine, reaching some live coals, would throw up a blaze of scintillating light in beautiful and dazzling tints. Without a copious supply of water, however, satisfactory results were not obtained in subduing the conflagration. Notwithstanding the efforts of the firemen, the whole of the buildings, excepting an outer shed and the boiler-house, were destroyed, while some of the walls fell in as the lintels were burnt through.

The Estimated Loss.

It is estimated that when the fire broke out there were about 250,000 gallons of wine in the cellars, and this, together with the buildings, was said to be worth about £25,000 or £30,000. The insurances effected on the buildings and contents amounted in the aggregate to £16,726. About one-third of the loss will have to be borne by Messrs. Hardy & Sons, as they were not insured for the full value. Mr. T. Hardy, sen., informed us on Sunday that the amount of wine destroyed was 110,000 gallons. It is estimated that the damage, resulting from the fire will reach fully £20,000. The property was insured with the National Insurance Company of New Zealand, of which Mr. J. Creswell is secretary, the amount being allocated as follows:—On building of cellar. £1,000; wine, £12,125; casks and vats. £2,351; machinery and utensils of trade. £750; dwelling and furniture. £750. Only a small proportion of this amount was retained by the National Insurance Company of New Zealand, and many companies are affected by reinsurance.

The Promises.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit
www.fire-brigade.asn.au
11 December 2024

The Bankside vineyard comprises 50 acres. Mr. Thomas Hardy took up his residence on the land in 1853, and seven years later began winemaking. Commencing in a small way, he added building to building until the area of his wine cellars reached nearly three-quarters of an acre. The buildings were chiefly two-storey in height. The walls were variously built of mud, concrete, stone, and brick, while they were covered with wood and iron. There were three floors, inclusive of the basement, almost entirely covered with large vats filled with some of the best wines. Indeed, the bulk of that destroyed was the best; and a quantity of olive oil shared the same fate. The output from these cellars was 50,000 gallons of wine per annum, and of olive oil 1,000 gallons. Mr. Hardy's dwelling, which is two storeys in height, and has 12 rooms, is about 40 ft. distant from the cellars, which are connected with the cellars under the dwelling by a subterranean passage. The dwelling narrowly escaped destruction, for it is surrounded by a wooden balcony, and some parts of it were ignited by the flames being blown by the wind across the intervening clear space. In view of the impending danger the rooms were cleared of the furniture and effects.

Statement by Superintendent Booker.

Superintendent Booker, when seen by a representative of The Advertiser on Sun-day morning, made the following statement:— "At 1.45 p.m. on Saturday information was received at the headquarters fire station in Wakefield-street of a fire in Thebarton, but owing to the faulty communication some time was lost in ascertaining the exact position of the fire. The reel was immediately turned out in charge of the super-intendent, and upon arrival at Mile-End we found that the fire was not in those cellars belonging to Messrs, Hardy & Sons which are situated at the junction of the Henley Beach-road and the road to Hindmarsh. Soon afterwards, however, a man on horse-back came along, and piloted us to the scene of the fire, which was at Messrs. Hardy & Sons' Bankside establishment. Upon arrival there I found that the cellars were well alight from end to end. Many of the vats of wine had burst, and the roof had fallen in. To make matters more difficult, I found that the nearest water main was fully 1,800 ft. away from the fire. Fortunately by borrowing the hose from the Hindmarsh Volunteer brigade, which was present, and joining it to 1,000 ft. of our own hose, we were able to get one stream of water to play on the fire. Seeing at once that there would be a total loss if more stringent measures were not adopted, I immediately sent for a steam fire-engine from town, and this arrived at 2.30 p.m. under a full head of steam. All this time the wine from the vats which had burst was flowing from the cellar where the fire was located, by means of an underground passage, down an inclined plane into the cellar beneath the residence, and it covered the floor of that cellar to a depth of 4 ft. As soon as the steam fire-engine arrived I gave instructions to put the suction pipes into the cellar beneath the house. By this means I was able to throw two powerful one-inch streams of wine on to the fire, and so prevent a total destruction. The engine room and boiler-house, together with a quantity of wine, were saved, I estimate that the loss, speaking roughly, will be over £20,000."

Do you know what the insurances are?

"I have heard that it is covered to the extent of £17,000 by a policy with the National Insurance Company of New Zealand, which, of course, would only retain a small portion of that amount. I should say that the whole of the building and contents would be valued at about £25,000 or £30,000. Have you any knowledge as to the cause of the fire. "We have been unable to find out the actual cause." When was the fire completely extinguished? "It is

not extinguished yet. I have had an officer and two men working all night at the fire, and they were relieved this morning by another officer and two men. I expect that it will be Monday morning before we can remove all the appliances which are being used at the fire. Prior to the brigade getting to the fire some willing workers had, as usual, removed the whole of the contents of the private house, and as they were not too careful I am afraid considerable damage was done to the furniture in the process. The police, both foot and mounted constables, rendered me every assistance in their power."

Between 16,000 and 18,000 Gallon's of Wine Used.

Superintendent Booker showed our representative the steam-engine which had been used to pump the wine on to the fire. Al-though it had been washed with hot water and soap it reeked with the smell of the boiling and be-smoked wine which had passed through it. The firemen had worked all night in making all the appliances, except those left at the fire, ready for an-other call. It may be mentioned that the wine which was pumped through the steam engine was so heated by the fire in the cellar that it almost reached boiling point. In fact it was so hot that the men were compelled to wrap bags around the "branches" to enable them to hold them. Mr. Booker showed great foresight—the result of his vast experience—in using the wine in the cellar. He thus established an endless supply of fluid to fight the fire, because as fast as it was pumped into the cellar, where the fire was. it flowed by the subterranean passage back again into the cellar, where the suction pipes of the engine drew it upwards again, and in this manner the same wine passed through the hoses several times. Superintendent Booker calculated that during the time that the steam-engine was working he pumped be-tween 16,000 and 18.000 gallons of wine on the fire. It is worthy of mention that al-though the firemen became drenched in wine, and could have obtained it readily in any quantity, they did not taste a drop of it, but drank freely from the bucket of milk which was passed round. In the fire brigade there is a stringent rule against any fireman drinking liquor while on duty, and this instance of abstention speaks well for the excellent discipline of the firemen.

A Moral from the Fire.

When asked whether he had any comment to make regarding the fire, Superintendent Booker said—"I might state that this loss by fire is another instance that clearly proves to me that the present Fire Brigades Act re-quires immediate attention. The late call, alone, and the inability to instruct us as to the class of fire or the exact locality, meant thousands of pounds lost. Proper means of communication should, in the interests of the taxpayers, be established from all districts within a reasonable radius direct to the headquarters station. When it is taken into consideration that the whole of Thebarton, as in this instance, all the districts between Glenelg and Adelaide, also Prospect, Medindie. Walkerville, Burnside, Glen Osmond, and many other district councils near Adelaide are totally unprotected, it is time, in my opinion, that something should be done in the interests of those who may expect a fire at any time. All cities, towns, and suburban municipal-ties have to contend against a loss by fire, and as an expert of many years' standing I fail to see how any of these places can expect protection when a fire breaks out. if they do not make provision prior to the misfortune. Not one of these districts contributes a farthing per annum to the expenses of the Fire Brigades Board. At the fire in question 13 men and two officers were engaged in fighting the flames, and the plant used cost the city of Adelaide considerably over £1.000, and yet Bank-side is within the Corporation of Thebarton, which does not contribute towards the maintenance of

the Fire Brigade in any shape or form, but, as in all other such cases, the moment a fire breaks out all haste is made to ring up the Metropolitan Fire Brigade." What advantage do the corporations which contribute to the maintenance of the Fire Brigades obtain under those circumstances?

"They have practically no advantage over the districts which do not contribute. The brigade is undermanned at the present time, and we ought to have considerably more men. With half the brigade away at a fire in one of those non-contributing districts a great portion of Adelaide might be destroyed. Under the existing Fire Brigades Act a great responsibility is thrown on my shoulders. Under clause 34 of the Act power is given to the superintendent "if he thinks fit" to proceed out side the municipality of Adelaide with the whole or any portion of the brigade for the purpose of protecting life and property. The same clause also gives the Fire Brigades Board power to direct me to go. As however, it would be almost impossible for the board to be called together to instruct me to go in an outlying district, I have had to carry this responsibility on my own shoulders. Personally, I do not think it is fair, or in the interests of the ratepayers of the city of Adelaide, that any portion of the metropolitan brigade should proceed to districts which are not contributing to the Fire Brigades Board."

The Cellarman Interviewed.

Mr. John Steward, cellarman, said he was the last man on the premises prior to the fire. He left the place at 1 o'clock. Before leaving he went through all the cellars carefully, and found everything apparently all right. He added—"After I went through No. 9 cellar, and seeing that there was nothing irregular. I locked the doors. During the morning some of the casks were sulphured, a process which is done by dipping strips of calico in sulphur which are then fastened to a piece of wire and placed in the casks to burn them out. The sulphured calico is ignited by the flame of a candle. We have never had an accident during these operations, and I am not aware that there is any danger. The sulphuring of the casks took place at about 11 o'clock. Mr. T. Hardy and our wine expert, Mr. Seeck, were the only persons who used the candle while the sulphuring of the casks was being proceeded with. The casks are bunged after sulphuring. I am sure they put out the light safely. Just after noon we started to sweep up, when no lights were required, nor were any used. Everything was safe when I shut the cellars, and I was the last to leave. I hung the keys on the locks in the usual place at the dwelling-house, and went home."

Another Inspection.

Mr. T. N. Hardy said that when he left about 1.5 p.m. the cellarman had locked up and had hung up the keys. At noon he had carefully looked through the cellars and had found everything safe. Nothing inflammable was kept, in the cellar.

Mr. T. Hardy Speaks.

Mr. Thomas Hardy, head of the firm, was absent from home at the time of the fire, and he arrived at 5 o'clock, when the flames had been extinguished. He sorrowfully went over the demolished cellars, and said —"That was the work of a lifetime. I came here in 1853, and started this industry in 1860, adding one building to an-other until the whole has reached its present dimensions, and now it is all destroyed. Our business arrangements, I am glad to say, will not be interfered with by the destruction of the cellars and wine, as this is a small concern compared with what we have at Maclaren Vale and Tintara."

The Pressure of Water.

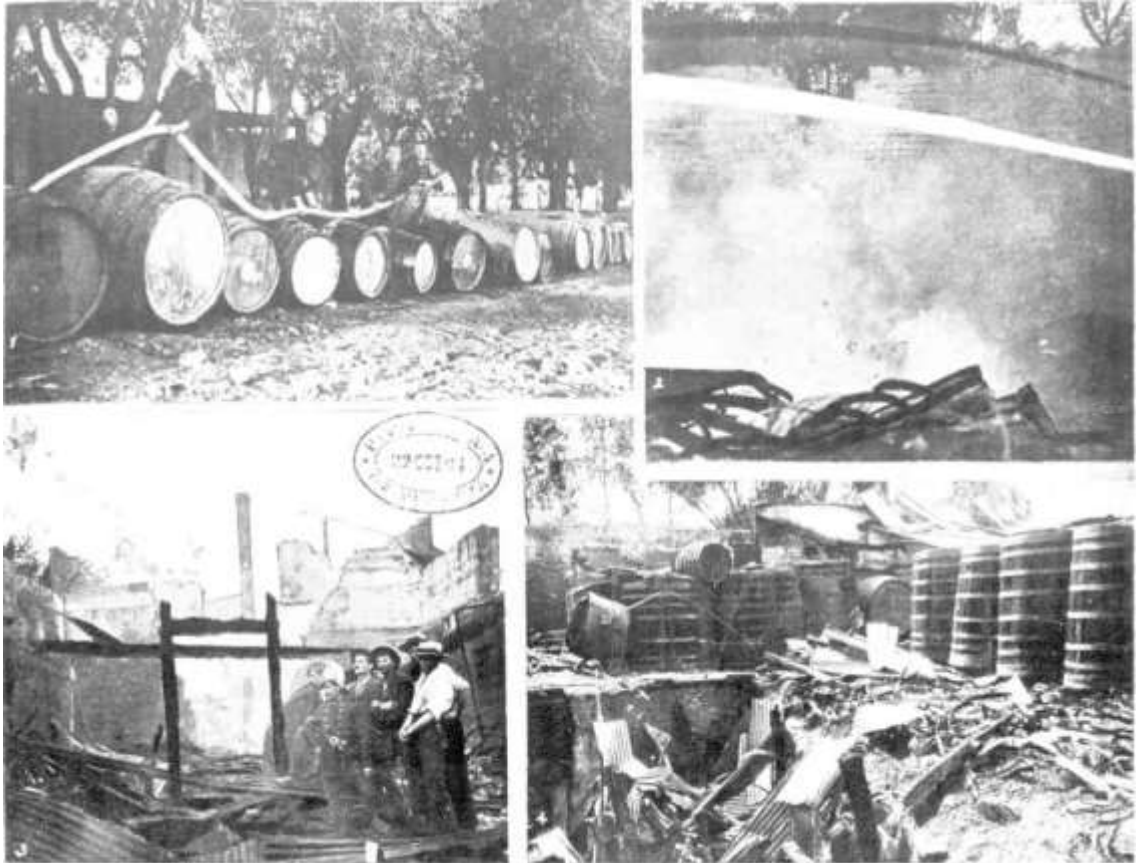
Mr. W. S. Dover, secretary of the Hindmarsh brigade, said his brigade arrived at the wine cellars at 1.45 p.m., five minutes after the hooter was sounded at the gas works, but there was no hope of saving the buildings as water could not be obtained in sufficient quantity until the hose had been connected with the water main near Holbrook's-bridge. He did not think the pressure was more than 35 lb. to the inch, and consequently the firemen were handicapped in their work.

Australasian (Melbourne, Vic. : 1864 - 1946), Saturday 22 October 1904, page 33

FIRE AT AN ADELAIDE WINERY.

The well known winery at Bankside Vine-yards, Adelaide, one of the oldest in the state, belonging to Thomas Hardy and Sons, was completely destroyed by fire on Saturday afternoon. The Bankside property comprises about 60 acres, on the bank of the Torrens. The homestead and winery are set close together in the midst of care-fully cultivated vineyards, fruit orchards, orange groves, and garden land. There was a storage capacity of 400,000 gallons, and last year Mr. Thomas Hardy made 30,000 gallons. The winery was three stories high, crushing being done on the top floor and fermenting on the second and basement, floors. The fire appears to have started shortly after the workmen left at 1 o'clock. When first seen at 10 minutes past 1, it was well alight, and the difficulty of combating the flames when the brigades arrived was enhanced by the fact that the nearest mains were half a mile away. Meanwhile the flames were doing great destruction, and every few minutes the spirit in the large tubs of wine would boil and cause the great casks to burst with a loud report, and throw a crimson fountain of wine, which flooded the cellars. Superintendent Booker saw in this development a new fire extinguisher, and for a hour and a half poured two 1in. jets of wine upon the flames. Such of the liquid poured on the fire as flowed back into the basement was used again and again. During most of the time the nozzles of the hoses had to be held by the firemen with bags on account of the intense heat of the wine passing through them. The damage is estimated at £25,000, and the insurance covers £16,000. The origin of the fire is not known.

FIRE AT THE ADELAIDE BANKSIDE WINERY ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16.



1. FIREMEN SAVING SOME OF THE PORT WINE. 2. STREAMS OF WATER AND WINE BEING
POURED ON THE FIRE. 3. THE RUINS AT SIX P.M. : FIRE STILL BURNING. 4. AFTER THE FIRE :
MAIN PORTION OF THE CELLARS.

(H. Krischock, photo.)

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 27 October 1904, page 4

THE BANKSIDE FIRE.

The fire at the Bankside Winery occurred on Saturday, October 15, and it is interesting to note the promptitude with which the insurance claim was settled. Col. Freeman arrived from Melbourne last Sunday to adjust the loss. Mr. J. Edwin Thomas, on behalf of T. Hardy & Sons, Limited, previously investigated the matter. Col. Freeman entered upon his duties on Monday last, and by 7 o'clock at night had settled the claim for £12,050. The declaration of loss was handed to the insurance company on Tuesday, and at half-past 2 on Wednesday afternoon Mr. Thomas Hardy, on behalf of his firm, received from the National Insurance Company, of New Zealand, the sum of £12.050 in settlement.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 8 November 1904, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

Councillor Plenty at the meeting of the Hindmarsh Town Council on Monday evening introduced the local volunteer fire brigade as a deputation to speak on matters of interest in connection with the protection of the town from fire by the brigade. Superintendent Duncan said that some time ago, when the efficiency of the brigade was discussed, the council were unanimous in their opinion that the brigade was efficient. Superintendent Booker was asked

to report, and said that a specially constructed fire engine, made under his supervision, was necessary, owing to the low water pressure, but Mr. Booker had now altered his opinion, for at Hardy's fire he had said that the engine in use there was the one he intended for Hindmarsh. As the water pressure was low the brigade had been making enquiries about a suitable engine and had selected one from Merryweather's catalogue, which would be suitable. It could be drawn by one horse or two firemen. It would deliver 200 gallons per minute, and the cost was about £360. Clause 4 of section 3 of the Fire Brigades Bill before Parliament would affect the local volunteer brigade, and also the town of Hindmarsh, if the brigade came under the Fire Brigades Board, and he suggested that a deputation from the council with the members for West Torrens, should wait on the Premier and lay before him the disability the town of Hindmarsh would be under. He asked that a vote be taken on the day of the municipal election, so that the ratepayers might indicate whether or not they were satisfied with the protection given by the local brigade.

The hon. secretary of the brigade (Mr W. S. Dover) said the brigade protested against the unjust interference with the rights of the council and ratepayers. The steamer referred to by the superintendent would throw a jet of water 140 ft. at the rate of 200 gallons per minute. The brigade offered to pay 6 per cent. interest on the cost of the engine for five or six years, and at the end of that term no doubt the debt would be bonded by the council, and the engine would be the property of the council, and the brigade eased of further liability. It would be cheaper for the ratepayers and council to obtain the engine at once for if the town came under the Fire Brigades Board in 1905 the ratepayers would have to pay their share towards the maintenance of a permanent brigade. Quoting the figures submitted at the last enquiry into the efficiency of the local fire brigade the rate-payers in 1905 under the Fire Brigades Board would pay £495; in 1906 £261, and in 1907 he was not prepared to say how much. For instance, Glenelg now paid two-ninths of the estimated cost of maintenance. Two-ninths to this council for 1902 was £87, and in 1903 £106, and in 1904 the cost was £122. Unley paid to the Fire Brigades Board £162 per annum. Kensington and Norwood in 1902 paid £104, and in 1903 £127. These towns had no steamer. Port Adelaide with a steamer paid £565 per annum. If the local volunteer fire brigade only existed two years from the time the steamer was purchased the council would be well repaid, as they would be in possession of it, and in addition would have saved £212. It would be too late to cry out when once under the Fire Brigades Board, as the Act made no provision whatever for a withdrawal. With regard to the Amended Fire Brigade Bill before Parliament they were indebted to The Advertiser for the prompt manner in which the objectional clauses had been pointed out. He showed how the new clauses would disadvantageously affect Hindmarsh, and the heavy expense to the ratepayers if they were under the Fire Brigades Board and the dictation of Superintendent Booker.

The Mayor expressed appreciation of the work done by the brigade, and said that it was essential for the protection of the town that the brigade should have a steamer, for even if after a lapse of twelve months the town came under the Fire Brigades Board it would be useful. The volunteer brigade had made a generous offer, by proposing to pay the interest of 6 per cent. The council however, at present had no funds to expend on an engine, as they would have a heavy deficit to wipe off, which, he believed, would have to be bonded. If that were done, the £360 required for a steamer might be amalgamated with the corporation deficit, and the whole bonded together, provided the money was voted to purchase the steamer, and he did not see any difficulty in doing that. The council had a high opinion of the

efficiency of the volunteer brigade, and were well pleased with the work it had done in extinguishing fires, but there was a feeling, especially among large manufacturers, in favor of coming under the Fire Brigades Board, and these firms had a right to every consideration so far as the protection of their property was concerned. The difficulty of coming under the board was the expense, as there was practically no limit to it. If the council could see their way clear to grant the re-request of the deputation they would do so. In the discussion which followed it was mentioned that if the Bill before the House passed in its present form, and the council agreed to come under its provisions, which it was said would be almost compulsory, the council would be running their heads into a noose that it would be difficult to get out of. It was decided that the council, the members of West Torrens, and ratepayers should wait on the Chief Secretary, and ask for an alteration of the objectionable clauses in the Bill.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 22 November 1904, page 2

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

At the Hindmarsh Council meeting on Monday evening the Mayor reported that a meeting of the whole council had been held to consider the proposals made by the deputation from the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade at the previous council meeting. The meeting had considered that it was unnecessary to hold a referendum to ascertain whether residents were satisfied with the brigade. With reference to the suggestion made by the deputation as to the purchase of a fire engine, it had been decided to leave this matter to the new council for 1906. The Mayor further stated that he had waited on the Hon. B. A. Moulden regarding the clause in the Fire Brigades Act, which had been objected to by the brigade and by the council. The clause had been altered, but he was afraid the Bill put the council in practically the position it have been under the measure as first drawn up, viz., that the council would have to come under the Metropolitan Board when called on by the Governor. He, however, would shortly receive a copy of the amended Bill from Mr. Moulden, and would then communicate with the council. He wished to extend thanks to Mr. Moulden for the efforts made to assist the Hindmarsh Corporation in the matter.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 28 November 1904, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The resignation of the officers of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was followed on Saturday by the publication of a circular over the signatures of Superintendent Duncan and Mr. W. S. Dover, secretary, "on behalf of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade." In it a question addressed to the ratepayers is, "Are you satisfied with the present fire protection given, or are you prepared to pay another threepenny rate?" The circular states:—"The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, under the direction of Superintendent J. Duncan, has for the past 20 years protected your town against the ravages of fire, with-out fee or reward. We feel that the obligation entrusted to the brigade by the Hindmarsh Corporation during those long years has been carried out in its entirety by us. A few persons in this town think it is desirable to come under the Fire Brigades Board and have a costly permanent fire brigade. We therefore as ratepayers of your town think it is our duty to enlighten you as to the cost of a permanent fire brigade under Superintendent Booker." A comparison is given showing that the cost of the Volunteer Fire Brigade to the corporation is £69 per annum, and that for a permanent fire brigade of six men the cost will be for the first year, inclusive of

installation, £2,904, payable as follows:—Insurance companies, £931; Government, £698; Hindmarsh Corporation, £465; second year and thereafter. £1,175; payable as follows:—Insurance companies. £522; Government, £392; Hindmarsh Corporation, £261.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 29 November 1904, page 3

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Monday evening a special meeting of the Hindmarsh Town Council was held to consider the action of the officers of the local volunteer fire brigade in resigning their positions on Thursday last. The Mayor (Mr. J. F. King) said he had called the council together for the painful duty of considering the resignations of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade officers. Ald. Hocking asked that the conditions of further service, laid down in the resignation of the superintendent (Mr. James Duncan) be read, which was done by the Mayor. Ald. Hocking then asked—"Do you think it is possible for us to agree with conditions, or is it likely that any interference will be made?" The Mayor—No. Mr. Booker has power by the Act to interfere, but I do not think it is likely he will do so. The Mayor read the reply which he had given to the officers of the brigade on the night of the deputation, and stated that he could only endorse the remarks then made. He would emphasize the statement then given that the brigade had been too hasty in resigning, and were ill-advised in taking such a step, which practically nullified all their previous 20 years' good service. In resigning the officers could not have maturely considered the matter, and would have been far better to consult the council before going to the extreme measure taken. Their action showed a certain amount of weakness, and implied that they would do the same at any other time. They should have an opportunity to reconsider their action, and he thought they would now see that they had made a mistake, and would withdraw their resignations. He believed Superintendent Duncan felt sorry for what had been done, and that he had been ill-advised. Cr. Plenty moved—"That the matter be considered in committee." Cr. Howson seconded. Cr. Wright thought it would be better to deal straightout with the matter. After discussion the motion was lost. The voting was:—For—Ald. Hunwick, Crs. Plenty and Howson. Against—Ald. Hocking, Crs. Wright, Hallett, and Biggs. Cr. Wright moved—"That the resignations be referred back to the fire brigade for consideration." He was sorry the officers had been ill-advised to such an extent. He did not doubt that there had been some confusion; but it was confusion made more confounding by the ill-advice they had received. They should have first consulted the council for advice, because the council had given them all that they had asked for, and had acted in a fatherly manner, and nursed them. The council did not want to give a loophole for the Metropolitan Board to come in; but the action of the local brigade had done so. The brigade had not treated the council as they should have done. It had been shown that a 2d. or 3d. rate would have to be made to maintain a permanent brigade. He would like to see the resignations withdrawn. He believed, Mr. Smeaton, the Chairman of the Metropolitan Board, was quite right in his statements made in an interview with a representative of The Register, when he said that the Corporation of Hindmarsh was not likely to be interfered with. If for no other reason than the officers had acted in an absurd manner. He was pleased that one of the officers of the brigade (Cr. Plenty) had protested against the resignations. Ald. Hocking said he was extremely sorry officers had taken such a step, but had probably done so without proper consideration. A general meeting of officers of the brigade had not been called to talk over the matter, but it had been felt by some of the officers that they were aggrieved, and that greater injury had been done than was the case. If they had coolly discussed the matter with the local Fire Brigade Board and the

council their step would never have been taken It would take years to recover from the injury done to the brigade. The council had done everything for them as far as possible, and had taken a deal of trouble to show the underwriters the efficiency of the body. The council would have prevented any interference by the Metropolitan Board. Something was wanted to alter the existing state of affairs. Hindmarsh people paid £69 per annum to maintain the local brigade, Adelaide paid £1,000 a year to keep the metropolitan body going, and the Town of Thebarton paid nothing. When the gasworks hooter sounded the alarm of fire, even if in the Thebarton district, the Hindmarsh men left their work to go to the scene of the outbreak, and Superintendent Booker with his brigade also attended. Was that fair, when the Thebarton townspeople paid nothing for fire protection? The Hindmarsh Brigade knew that the council would leave no stone unturned to maintain the voluntary system as long as they kept up their efficiency, and he thought there was no fear of the Metropolitan Board interfering. The local brigade had lately asked to have a fire engine purchased for them, and were given a favourable reply by the council. The members had not treated the Hindmarsh Council as fairly as they ought to have done. He hoped Superintendent Duncan would see this, and withdraw his resignation. It would be the best way to heal the sore, and by keeping up the standard of the brigade would keep out interference. A permanent brigade would cost £261 per year, which would mean a threepenny rate. The council could not afford to strike even a penny rate. Cr. Howson supported. He was very sorry the officers had taken such a hasty step, for which there was absolutely no necessity. It was not certain that Hindmarsh would be compelled to come under the City Board. He thought there was something underiving the whole matter. It looked as though the step had been taken because the council had decided not to take the referendum asked for. Ald. Hunwick and Crs. Hallett and Biggs supported the motion. The Mayor said he was pleased to hear the council take such a lenient view of the situation, and could only refer to what he had said when the brigade waited on him on Thursday last. Mr. T. H. Smeaton had practically voiced his views in the interview reported. The Act was to secure protection for unprotected districts within ten mile radius. The council was cognizant of the fact that there were objectionable features in the amended Act, and had done all it possibly could to have it altered. What more could it have done. For the local brigade to take exception to one clause was absurd; there was no reason for taking such a parochial view of the Act. The Act did not mean that an expensive fire brigade would be put up in every town, and the board did not intend to go to such an outlay. Thebarton would probably come under the city board, and pay part of its maintenance, which was only fair. He much regretted the extreme action of the officers, especially as the local corporation had been always ready to applaud their efforts, and to help them in every way. The ratepayers owed a debt of gratitude to the brigade for past services, but the step of the officers looked especially bad, coming on top of the recommendation made at last council meeting to suitably acknowledge the services of Superintendent Duncan. The motion was carried unanimously.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 2 December 1904, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

OFFICERS' RESIGNATIONS WITHDRAWN.

The officers of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade, who resigned about a week ago, have decided to fall in with the wishes of the Town Council, and withdraw their resignations. A special meeting of the council was held on Thursday evening to consider the decision of the officers.

The Mayor said that Superintendent Duncan had handed to him a letter withdrawing the resignations. The Mayor also read a letter from Mr. T. H. Brooker, M.P., in which he stated:—I am enclosing a letter received from the Chief Secretary in reply to one that I had sent to him, in reference to the volunteer fire brigade under the Amending Act. I am very sorry that the brigade resigned, and I think they should reconsider their decision. There is nothing in the Act that affects them more than the old Act. I made sure of that as it went through. The only point is that those corporations that do not provide any protection must be made to do it, which is right. So long as your brigade are efficient they will not be interfered with. The Chief Secretary's letter stated:—In dealing with volunteer fire brigades the superintendent of fire brigades is not empowered in any way to interfere with their proper working. There is no present intention to attempt any interference with the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade.

Councillor Wright moved — "That the communication from the fire brigade be received, and that the thanks of this council be tendered to them, and that copies of the letters from Mr. T. H. Brooker, M.P., and the Chief Secretary be sent to them." Alderman Hocking seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously, without discussion.

The Mayor said he had sent a letter to the South Australian Underwriters' Association and the chairman, of the Fire Brigades Board, stating that the officials of the local volunteer brigade had withdrawn their resignations, and were prepared to protect the town against fire for five years or more, or during the pleasure of the council, and that the resignations had been sent to the council under a misapprehension, as the officers had been under the impression that the recent legislation with regard to the Fire Brigades Act meant practically disbanding the volunteer brigade.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 8 December 1904, page 5

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade celebrated the 20th anniversary of its formation on Wednesday evening, when each member was presented with a framed photographic group of the men in uniform. It was in November, 1884, that the brigade was established, and Superintendent Duncan is the only member who has served 20 years.

1905

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 28 February 1905, page 4

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The work of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade is appreciated by the ratepayers. The services of the members at fires in the district have many times prevented serious loss, and the insurance companies have not been slow to mark their appreciation. On Monday evening, at the Hindmarsh Council meeting, a letter was read which had been received by the Secretary of the brigade from Mr. H. McDowell, the manager of the Royal Insurance Company, as follows:—"When inspecting the damage done by the fire which occurred at David Reid's tannery last Wednesday, I was pleased to learn of the smart response and good work done by the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade, and I wish to take this opportunity to convey to the superintendent and his men my appreciation of the services rendered. We all recognise that if a fire were to get a hold in any of the manufacturing blocks at Hindmarsh a serious conflagration would probably be the result, hence the necessity for promptitude at the

inception of a fire, and which your brigade seems to fully appreciate." A few weeks ago it was decided to recognise the long service of the superintendent (Mr. James Duncan), and the Mayor stated that it had been decided by the council to forward a cheque of £10 towards the presentation that is to be made to him.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 21 April 1905, page 4

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

At about half-past 7 on Thursday evening the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade received a call from the Adam street alarm to a fire which was burning at Messrs. G. H. Mitchell & Sons' large wool scouring premises. Mr. Ernest Radcliffe, manager at Messrs Frearson Brothers' printing establishment opposite, noticed a glare through one of the windows of the skin packing shed, and with several of his assistants promptly scaled the fence and got to work on the outbreak, while another man gave the alarm. Their prompt measures prevented extensive damage being done, as the wooden floor was well alight near a skin press. The buildings attached contain a large and costly wool scouring plant, said to be the most complete in this State. Some years ago these premises— then owned by Messrs. G. Burnell & Co.— were burnt down, and the same fate was probably averted by the promptness of Mr. Radcliffe. The local brigade put in an appearance a few minutes after the alarm was given, but their services were not then required, as the fire had been extinguished with buckets of water. The origin of the outbreak is a mystery, as the last man to leave the premises at five minutes to 6 noticed nothing amiss. Mr. G. Mitchell thinks perhaps one of the employes had dropped a match after lighting his pipe, although smoking is strictly prohibited on the premises. Beyond burning part of the flooring and singeing some skins, no damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 29 August 1905, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The usefulness of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade in so large a manufacturing district has always been recognised by the residents, and the work done by that body under Superintendent Duncan was eulogized by the local council on Monday evening. The annual balance sheet was presented. It showed that the receipts had been:— Private subscriptions, £51; donation Fire Underwriters' Association, £50; grant from Hindmarsh Corporation, £40; allowances, &c., from corporation and Government (telephones), £95. The expenditure had been £260, which included, among other items, £39 for new appliances. The auditors, in their report, mentioned that a great saving had been effected through purchasing new hose and other material direct from London, and they commended the secretary for the able way in which the accounts were kept. On the motion of Cr. Dring, seconded by Ald. King, it was resolved to forward a letter of appreciation to the fire brigade for the good work done for the town during the year.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 21 November 1905, page 2

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The residents of West Torrens are justly proud of the local volunteer fire brigade, and among its staunchest supporters are the members of the Hindmarsh Corporation. At the meeting of the civic authorities on Monday evening Cr. Plenty asked the Mayor whether he had noticed the report of Mr. Smeaton's speech recently in which it was stated that the brigade took 15 minutes to attend a fire? The Mayor— Yes; and he was sure the statement was incorrect.

The officers of the brigade were much annoyed at it. Cr. Plenty moved— "That the press be asked to publish a contradiction of the statement, as given by the secretary of the brigade, in justification of that body." Cr. Howson considered a slur had been cast on the brigade, as it was a well-known fact that the members were smart in being on the scene of an outbreak. More care should be taken by the gentlemen on North terrace that slandering of public bodies like the local brigade was not done. Ald. Hocking stated that the records of the brigade, and the testimonials received from various firms in the municipality, would prove that a misstatement had been made. Mr. Smeaton should have been more discreet in his statement, especially as he knew the district well. He thought a misprint must have been made. Instead of 15 minutes it should have been 15 seconds, as the brigade had never taken anything like the former time to attend a fire in the district. Cr. Richardson could not understand such a statement, especially in the face of the reputation for smartness which the brigade held. Complimentary remarks had been made by the Chief Secretary only recently at a call out, and the brigade's performances would compare favourably with the city or suburban bodies. The Mayor could not understand some of the members of Parliament being biased against the Hindmarsh Brigade; but he was sure there were many supporting it, and the members for the district were strong for the present system. The motion was carried.

1906

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 3 January 1906, page 4

FIRE AT BOWDEN.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called out to a fire in a pughole off Tenth-street, Bowden, on Tuesday after-noon. When Superintendent Duncan and the firemen arrived on the scene they found that a quantity of grass was alight. Although the flames spread to the fences on the street alignment, no serious damage was done.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 16 January 1906, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

It is generally recognised that the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade is an efficient body, able to turn out at short notice and do good service. The fact that the brigade is granted £50 a year by the Fire Underwriters' Association, in addition to £40 from the local council, indicates that the firemen are competent, and other recognition of their good services has been given. The legislation of last session, however, tends to alter the position of volunteer brigades very seriously. On Monday evening at the Hindmarsh Town Council meeting the Mayor (Mr. G. Wright) reported that the Government had forwarded to the fire brigade a copy of the regulations drawn up by the Fire Brigades' Board in regard to the registration and management of volunteer brigades. He said the matter had been referred to the fire brigades' committee of the council for consideration and report. Each regulation had been fully discussed by the committee, and a statement had been drawn up, showing that the enforcement of the rules in respect to the local brigade would be disastrous, and would cause its disbandment.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 16 January 1906, page 4

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Mayor of Hindmarsh reported at the council meeting on Monday evening that the Government had forwarded to the fire brigade a copy of the regulations drawn up by the fire brigades board in regard to the registration and management of volunteer fire brigades. The matter had been referred to the Hindmarsh Corporation fire brigade committee to consider and if thought desirable to make suggestions. Each regulation was carefully discussed, and it was resolved that a letter in reply should be forwarded. This had been done in a complete manner, showing that the enforcement of the rules in respect to the Hindmarsh Brigade would be disastrous, and would cause the disbandment of the brigade.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 13 February 1906, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

At the meeting of the Hindmarsh Town Council on Monday evening Alderman King reported that he and the Mayor had interviewed the Chief Secretary with reference to the local volunteer fire brigade and the new regulations. The Chief Secretary had promised to do all he could to retain the services of the brigade as now constituted, as he considered it had done good service, but he could not override the Act. He had mentioned that the Fire Brigades Board had no desire to dispense with the services of the brigade, and he thought it would be suicidal to do so; also, that in the absence of the superintendent of the metropolitan brigade his deputy should take command should the volunteer brigade be present. Alderman King said that Superintendent Duncan had agreed to submit to the deputy of the metropolitan brigade being in command.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 11 July 1906, page 6

FIRE IN NEW HINDMARSH.

At about 10 minutes to 8 on Tuesday evening the gasworks hooter at Brompton sounded the alarm of fire, and attention was directed to Mr. A. E. Burnell's hair washing and sterilizing premises in New Hindmarsh, where the stove drying room, sheds, and stock of hair were well alight. The material, after being washed, is placed to dry on an iron perforated floor over a flue heated from a furnace, and the temperature becoming too great, was evidently the cause of the outbreak. Mr. I. Howson, whose stables and trollies are in the premises adjoining, telephoned for the Adelaide Brigade. Deputy Superintendent Rickwood and half a dozen firemen were soon on the scene, and the North Adelaide Brigade also attended. The Hindmarsh reels and men, under Superintendent Duncan, had meanwhile got to work, but on the arrival of the city brigade Lieut. Rickwood took charge. After subduing the flames the bales of hair, which were smouldering, were taken out of the sheds and overhauled. The damage is estimated at about £50.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 31 July 1906, page 9

HINDMARSH: Monday, July 30.

It was decided to move the fire reel station on the Port road 4 ft. north to make the alignment right with the street.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 22 October 1906, page 4

FALSE ALARM OF FIRE.

The Hindmarsh volunteer fire brigade were called out shortly after midnight on Sunday, and when the firemen reached the alarm in Adam-street the glass was found broken. It was soon apparent that a trick had been played, and that the alarm was a false one. A reward of £10 is offered by the Hindmarsh council for information which will lead to the conviction of any person wilfully breaking the glass of any of the fire alarms.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 23 October 1906, page 8

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

At the meeting of the Hindmarsh Council on Monday evening Alderman King presented the annual report of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, submitted by Superintendent Duncan, which showed that the number of calls had been 13. Of these three were false, three resulted in serious damage, five in slight damage, and two were in pugholes. The calls were one less than the previous year. The extra grant from the council would enable the brigade to make fire protection more complete, as now two firemen were on duty every night through the year. The average attendance at fires by members of the brigade was 13; the weekly attendance at drills and meetings, 11. The discipline and general efficiency of the brigade were satisfactory. The plant included one reel and one horse, one manual fire engine, four hose carts, two hand reels, 3,500 ft. of hosing, hydrants, and all necessary appliances, which were in good order.

In moving the adoption of the report Alderman King said some were of opinion that the council might be better served under another system, but the brigade had done remarkably well. The report was adopted.

1907

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 11 January 1907, page 1

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

At 10:30 p.m. on Thursday the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to Mr. Hayward's brickworks at Ridleyton North. When the brigade arrived the firemen found a shed containing about 5 tons of stringybark well alight. The full strength of the brigade turned out, and the flames were quickly subdued. The damage is estimated at about £5.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 17 January 1907, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

Just at this time, when so much dissatisfaction appears to be manifested by the city and suburban corporations with the amount of expenditure incurred for fire protection, it is interesting to note that the Hindmarsh Corporation is well suited by the volunteer brigade in that town. The brigade was established in 1884, and interest has been maintained ever since, thanks to the energetic leaders and the co-operation of the members. Unlike the other fire stations, during the day none of the members remains on duty at the premises, but at night two are kept in charge. The efficiency of the brigade in fighting fires is due in a large measure to the Gas Company in Brompton, which, being connected with all the alarms in the district, when a fire is signalled, promptly sounds the hooter. This is a warning at once recognised by firemen, who voluntarily turn out for service, the members being allowed to do so by their employers. In different parts of the town there are six outstations, at which hand reels and hose are kept. These enable some of the men at any rate to be promptly on

the scene of the outbreak with appliances until the main horse reel can be got to work. The strength of the brigade is over 20 men, under the leadership of Superintendent Duncan, and the cost of maintenance is provided by private subscriptions, a donation from the Underwriters' Association of £50, and a grant from the corporation, of £40. The local council also pays the water and gas rates, and allows the use of the stations rent free. The total expenditure incurred by the local council is only £46, or if the rent value of the head station is taken into account, £72 per annum, and this for the services of over 20 men! The esprit-de-corps exhibited by the members is excellent, and they practise constantly. The officers, however, all acknowledge that it is only by having outstations scattered throughout the district and the services of the Gas Company that the brigade on a voluntary system can be maintained and prove at all effective. The large number of local subscribers indicates that Hindmarsh residents with fire risks have faith in their brigade.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 18 January 1907, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Town Council resisted all inducements to bring the local volunteer fire brigade under the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, as it was on various occasions contended that the expense would be too great. Some other town councils are now beginning to feel the financial pressure by being under the board thereby having to contribute to the up-keep of the permanent brigade within each municipality. The expense of the Hindmarsh brigade is not great. The council grants £40 per annum, and allows for water rates, rent of central station, and gas, in all, £32 13/2, making the total £72 13/2. In addition private subscriptions amount to £34 7/, and the Underwriters' Association contribute £50. In return for this there is an efficient brigade of 20 men, with a superintendent, captain, and two lieutenants, and a number of auxiliary firemen. There are a central station, five out-stations, fire alarms, and plant of the estimated value of £537. The brigade was started on a good basis by Mr. J. M. Reid (the late chairman of the Chamber of Manufactures), who for several years was its superintendent. Superintendent Duncan, who is in charge of the brigade, has been connected with it since its inauguration, 23 years ago, and he has done a great deal towards bringing the brigade to its present state of efficiency. The smartness of the men in turning out in response to the sounding of the hooter at the Brompton gasworks needs no comment, and the members of the council feel that they have a good asset in the brigade at a moderate annual expenditure. Two men are on duty at night, and on Sundays and all holidays.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 2 February 1907, page 10

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

SIM & CO.'S COOPERAGE.

GOOD WORK BY VOLUNTEER BRIGADE.

A destructive fire broke out in Sim and Co.'s cooperage, Manton street, Hindmarsh, shortly after 8 o'clock on Friday morning. The local volunteer fire brigade was summoned by the far-reaching blasts of the gas works hooter, and a muster of 15 men, under Superintendent Duncan, responded with alacrity. The noise of the hooter and a dense column of smoke lifting skywards attracted considerable attention among Hindmarsh residents, many of whom paused on their way to business to have a look at the fire. It was schoolgoing time,

and the crowd was welled by scores of children, for whom the spectacular part of the proceedings was an irresistible "draw." The blaze started in a workshop at the rear of the main storeroom, which fronts Manton street. A large stock of kauri wood and loosely piled banana cases were right in the path, so that the flames had every opportunity to spread at an alarming rate. The coopers had been at work about an hour when the mischief was detected. They were performing the usual operation of "firing," whereby staves are bent into desired shape; but it is not clear how the stack of timber became ignited. The men dropped their tools and ran for buckets of water to quench the fire. An inch emergency hose was kept on the premises, and it was also applied, but partly owing to the poor pressure of water and partly to the vigour of the flames, these means were not sufficient to cope with the outbreak. When the volunteers arrived the back portion of the place was well alight, and an effort was made to save the storeroom and offices, also two cottages on the western side, which were in imminent danger of catching. This was successful, and the firemen were able to concentrate their attention upon the central task. Two streams of water were applied; but in view of the inflammable nature of the premises, Mr. Duncan deemed it advisable to telephone to Superintendent Booker, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, asking for the aid of a "steamer." The request was complied with, and Superintendent Booker directed his men to fix a hose upon a 10 in. main in Milner street, about eight chains distant. The fire was already well in hand, and the supplementary stream was useful in giving a finishing touch to the quenching operations. For several hours, however, the charred wood continued to smoulder, and the local fire men stayed and performed the unpleasant duty of turning the whole stock over piece meal, in order to get to the bottom of the trouble. Three of the volunteers received burns on the hands, but stuck in their work. The application of carron oil (an invaluable specific for burns) they expected would soon "put them to rights." The premises were insured in the London and Lancashire Company for £300, and the contents in the Liverpool and London and Globe Company for £500. The partners of Messrs. Sim & Co. are Mr. John Sim and Mr. John Sim Noble. When seen on Friday Mr. Noble said the building was about three parts damaged by fire or water, and it was difficult to compute the monetary loss in that respect. A large quantity of timber used in the manufacture of casks and vats was destroyed. This might be roughly valued as worth about £400. A number of new barrels were rolled into the roadway and thus saved. For the most part the workmen saved their tools.

—The Owners' Liability.—

Superintendent Booker made a statement on Friday with regard to the liability of the owners in connection with the outbreak. The sufferers whose premises were outside the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Brigade is, says the superintendent, liable for over £30. because the city authorities dispatched a steamer and a reel to the scene. The time occupied was over three hours, and although the superintendent has not made a minute calculation under the schedule in the Fire Brigades Act. the cost will work out about the abovementioned sum. If Hindmarsh had been under the Fire Brigades Board this expense would not have been incurred. Mr. J. Sim. the senior partner of the firm estimates the damage at between £1,200 and £1,500. The firm have been particularly unfortunate in having stock injured by fire, twice previously conflagrations having broken out. Fires being used constantly in the building of the casks makes the danger of an outbreak great. An inquest will not be held.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 29 April 1907, page 8

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Saturday afternoon a competition among the members of the brigade was held at the head station, Lindsay Circus. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the men, a successful exhibition was the result. Unfortunately, however, one of the neighbouring manufactories was taking a big flow of water from the same main as the one used by the brigade, and the pressure being thus reduced the time taken to get water playing on an object was slower than would otherwise have been the case. The officers for the competition were:— Judges, Mr. W. Scriven and Mr. Harry Ray; Timekeepers, Cr. H. W. James and Mr. R. Apstear; Starter, Mr. J. Henwood. The teams were:— No. 1. Capt. Brown, A. Miller. T. Lonnen, A. Harley, and P. G. Hocking; No. 2, Lieut. Wakefield, C. Ferris, J. Hooker. A. Simpson. E. Fry; No. 3, Lieut. Hocking, D. Davis. G. Harding. E. Smith, and A. Battersby. At the close of the competition, for which prizes were awarded, the chief officer (Mr. J. Duncan) and the judges expressed themselves as highly pleased with the alacrity with which the events had been carried out.

No. 1 Event. Horse Reel Drill.— Conditions:— Men to be on horse reel fully equipped, to start 200 yards from plug, get to work with 100 ft. of wet hose, strike disc with water; all joints to be hard tight. Result— Capt. Brown's team, 1m. 20s. ; Lieut. Hocking's team. 1m. 51 4-5s. ; Lieut. Wakefield's team, 2m. 7 1-5s. No. 2. Hose and Ladder Drill with Hand Reel.— Conditions:— Men to run 30 yards to station, open gates and doors, pick up reel, get to work with two lengths of hose (each 100 ft. from plug), men to take off hose in station yard, four ladders to be placed against platform, butt same, and raise against platform, raise hose. and fix with hook and sling to ladder, and strike disc with water. Result— Capt. Brown's team. 1m. 20s.; Lieut. Hocking's team. 1m. 51 4-5s. ; Lieut. Wakefield's team, 2m. 7 1-5s. No. 3. Y Coupling Drill with Hose Cart.— Conditions: — Men to be outside station, run 100 yards to plug, fix hydrant, and get to work with two lengths of hose (one length to be 50 and one 100 ft.), strike disc with water, knock off water, connect Y coupling to first length, add another 100 ft., and branch, making two deliveries, strike disc with two streams. Result— Lieut. Wakefield's team, 2m. 1-5s. ; Capt. Brown's team, 2m. 8 3-5s. ; Lieut. Hocking's team, 2m. 29 4-5s. No. 4. One-man Drill with Hose Cart.— Conditions:—Men to start 50 yards from plug with hose cart, run to plug, and get to work with 100 ft. of wet hose, strike disc with water. Result— A. Harley, 1m. 13 2-5s.; G. Harding, 1m. 22 3-5s.; J. Hooker, 1m. 27s.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 1 June 1907, page 5

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Friday evening a social was held in the head station, Lindsay Circus, Hindmarsh. The opportunity was taken to present the prizes recently won at the competition, and also certificates for long service to the brigade. A capital supper was provided by Cr. W. H. Dring and Mr. L. H. Foote. Cr. James, who presided, praised the work of the brigade, and intimated that not only were the residents and ratepayers fully satisfied with the efforts of members, but the Hindmarsh Council appreciated the good work of fire saving in the town. He proposed the toast of "The King." The chief officer (Mr. J. Duncan) gave "The hosts." Cr. Dring and Mr. Foote returned thanks. Capt. Brown proposed "The judges and timekeepers." which was acknowledged by Mr. Scriven and Mr. H. Ray. The latter mentioned that he was so pleased with the efforts of the brigade that he would give a prize of five guineas for the next competition, to be awarded for most skill exhibited by members in a demonstration of life saving. The toast of "The press" was also honoured. Certificates for five years' faithful service were presented by the Chairman to Messrs. A. Kalosche, E. Smith, and H. Eckhold,

and prizes won at the competition were handed to members of Capt. Brown's team. Lieut. Wakefield's team, and Lieut. Hocking's team. A programme of music and elocution was earned by Messrs. Miller, A. Battersby (2), Hocking. Dring, L. Foote, and J. Brown. Mr. G. Jones was the accompanist.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 5 July 1907, page 4

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

A fire broke out at Mr. William White's residence, a four-roomed house, Port road, Carron-down, at about 1.30 on Thursday afternoon. Shortly afterwards the Gasworks hooter sounded the alarm. Sgt. Radford and F.C.'s Holden and Gurry were quickly on the spot, and found the two back rooms alight. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade responded smartly, and before many minutes had elapsed had the flames subdued. The furniture, wood fittings, and wallpapers in both rooms were considerably damaged by fire and water. The prompt action taken by the police and the fire brigade prevented a serious fire, as one of the rooms was constructed of weatherboard. Mrs. White explained that, with her son Harry, aged 16, she was warming tar on the kitchen fire when it suddenly boiled over, and immediately the room became a mass of flame. The amount of damage is estimated at about £30. The house is covered by insurance with the London and Liverpool and Globe Company for £100, and the furniture is insured with the same company for £50. The City Coroner was communicated with, and decided that an inquest was unnecessary.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 1 October 1907, page 4

SEVERE LOSS TO HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade recently purchased a big bay horse for use in the fire reel, and named it King. It was rapidly being educated to its work, and on Sunday morning Lieut. Wakefield and five firemen were out exercising the animal. When trotting along Government road, Croydon, near the intersection of Torrens road, King shied at a cow, and after going about 200 yards further suddenly dropped down in the road. The fire men were thrown on to the hard metal, and were shaken roughly, Lieut. Wakefield and one or two of the men severely so. It was found that the horse was dead, and a post-mortem examination proved the cause to be internal hemorrhage. The occurrence is unfortunate, as the animal was a costly one, and, contrary to the custom in the brigade, was not insured. The brigade is entirely supported by voluntary subscriptions, and the loss of a valuable horse will be severely felt. There is still a horse well trained, ready to be called upon at any time, and there is an enthusiastic squad of competent firemen.

[Wednesday 30th October. Fire at Hindmarsh](#)

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 31 October 1907, page 4

SMALL FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

Shortly before 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call from Gibson street, Bowden. Mr. G. J. Plenty, an officer of the brigade, got out the hand reel from its shed near by, and found that a quantity of hay, owned by Mr. G. T. Turner, was alight. The fire was extinguished after a portion of the hay had been destroyed. Mr. Turner estimated his loss at £25. The hay was not insured, although the building was insured to the extent of £100.

Wednesday 25th December. Fire at the Apollo Works, Hindmarsh.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 26 December 1907, page 1

APOLLO WORKS GUTTED WOOL SCOURING ESTABLISHMENT DESTROYED

DWELLINGS BURNT DOWN.

REID'S TANNERY SAVED

ESTIMATED LOSS £70,000.

About 1 a.m. on Christmas Day the Apollo works, Adam-street, Hindmarsh, belonging to Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons, were found to be on fire. This firm manufactured on these premises extract of soap, starch, blue, blacking, soda crystals, lubricating oils and grease. Consequently the place was full of inflammable material. The fire spread with tremendous rapidity, and although the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade was soon on the scene the works were completely destroyed.

The flames spread to the property of Messrs. G. H. Michell & Sons, wool scourers, situated to the westward, where considerable loss was also sustained, and to Messrs. Wilcox & Co.'s building, which was destroyed. Messrs. David Reid & Sons' tannery, close by, had a narrow escape from destruction.

THE PREMISES

The shape of the block of land on which the Apollo works stood, with the wool scouring establishment of Messrs. G. H. Michell & Sons, Mr. George Willcox's skin depot, and Mr. David Reid's Sterlingshire tannery, together with a few dwellings, is like the segment of a circle, and it has an area of about eight acres. On the Adam-street frontage are a few dwellings, the Apollo works, which covers 2½ acres of ground, and Messrs. Michell & Son's premises, covering about 2 acres; they extend in that order from east to west, and on the eastern frontage is Mr. Reid's tannery, which runs back to the Apollo works. The Apollo works and Messrs. Michell and Son's extend right back to Torrens-street, which takes a turn near the Jolly Miller Hotel, and runs around the circumference of the segment, following the Torrens River. Mr. Wilcox's premises face Torrens-street at the back.

The approximate value of all these premises is £120,000 or more, and from 200 to 250 men and boys altogether were employed. About 65 men and boys were employed at the Apollo works, and 60 altogether at Messrs. Michell & Sons', and Messrs. Willcox & Co.'s. A rough estimate of the loss at the Apollo works is about £50,000, and at Messrs. Michell & Sons' from £15,000 to £20,000. The Apollo works are insured in the Yorkshire office, and Messrs. G. H. Michell & Sons' were covered by insurance in the Union office.

THE APOLLO WORKS

In about an hour after the start of the fire the Apollo works were completely gutted. All that was left were the burning uprights that had supported the roof. The outside walls were of brick, but the partitions were of timber; in fact, most of the buildings were of timber and galvanized iron. After a time the great brick walls gave way, and the brickwork was strewn right across Adam-street.

From out of the burning building flowed streams of burning pitch and resin. Frequent detonations, caused by the burning resin, flowing down the watertable in one mass of

flame, alarmed the people, and made them cautious of closing in too near. In one shed, separated from Messrs. Michell & Sons by a wall, was a quantity of fire kindlers and the material for making these. The conflagration there was great indeed, but the fire-fighters did splendid work at that spot.

Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons manufacture at the Apollo works starch, blue, blacking, soda, fire kindlers, and other articles. They make all their boxes, and for this and other purposes they have saw-mills, with four circular saws and one frame saw. Their establishment has been a hive of industry, and Mr. H. M. Radcliffe is the manager.

Mr. H. M. Radcliffe's office, abutting on Adam-street, with all its contents, was completely destroyed. The whole of the books, however, were saved. Just outside was a 2-in. gas main, leading into the works. Mr. E Ryles, a gas employe, succeeded in removing the gas meter near the office, but he was not able, owing to the fierceness of the flames, to turn the cock, and a large flame from the pipe was burning a considerable time before the supply was turned off.

The brick wall facing Adam-street fell out on to the road, and some of the bricks reached the opposite side. On the river side the fire was extending towards Messrs. Willcox & Co.'s skin establishment.

Tongues of fire burst out, and all sorts of colors were to be seen turning night into day with the intenseness of their illumination. Amongst the shades of colors visible were pink, heliotrope, blue, and green, but these were all suddenly absorbed by the bursting out of an immense volume of white flame that licked up the water that had fallen on to the ground.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 26 December 1907, page 1

A BIG BLAZE

The spectacle was a magnificent, although an awful, one. There were 120 or more casks of resin stored for use, and when this and the timber and other inflammable material got ablaze the flames leapt to a great height. Although the devastation was appalling, the magnificence of the scene caused wonder to the immense crowd of spectators.

MICHELL & SONS' PREMISES

At 2.45 a.m. the fire obtained a hold on Messrs. J. H. Michell & Sons' wool-scouring establishment, and the work of the brigade was transferred to these buildings. The large new shed, erected about three years ago, in which was stored a large quantity of wool in bales, of an estimated value of from £ 15,000 to £20,000, caught alight. Here, there is a scene of great devastation. The firemen fought the flames, but in vain, for once the wool caught alight the flames leapt from bale to bale, until there was a solid mass of fire, extending an immense height. The firemen were driven back again and again, but they were not undaunted, and from different coigns of vantage they poured streams of water into the mass of fire. The front part of the buildings was thus protected and saved intact from damage.

REID'S TANNERY SAVED

About 3 a.m. the fire caught Mr. David Reid's tannery on its western side, which is divided from the Apollo works by a brick wall, but very little damage was done. The firemen, a

number of Mr. Reid's employes, and others kept the flames away, but there was a big fight for mastery, as close to the wall that separates the tannery from the Apollo works was a large quantity of inflammable material that burnt in a manner that caused everyone to think that total destruction faced the tannery. Eventually the wall was broken down by the firemen, who, while situated inside the tannery amongst the pits, poured a stream of water on the burning mass.

At 4 a.m. all danger had passed, and Mr. J. H. Reid, the manager, was rejoicing at the success of the firefighters. This is the second largest tannery at Hind-marsh, and at which about 60 or 70 men are employed.

DWELLINGS DESTROYED

About 1.10 a.m. the fire spread to the dwellinghouse of Mrs. R. T. Dobbie, on the east of the Apollo works, and Con-stables Ryan and Bond and a host of helpers removed the furniture. By 2.15 the house was quite gutted. Owing to the great pressure of work on the part of the combined brigades elsewhere little attention could be given to this house.

Mrs. Dobbie and her family of one son and two daughters were awakened just after 1 o'clock. Miss Eva Dobbie saw the light from the Apollo works, and she at once roused the family. Mrs. Dobbie, an invalid, was removed to a place of safety, and the young people set to work to remove the furniture, &c., out of the house. Ready help was given, and the work of furniture removal was accomplished. Amongst the articles removed were a piano and an organ.

Mr. R. Irwin, a tenant, who occupied one of the houses, also removed his furniture. It was pitiful to see these homeless people on a vacant piece of land in charge of their furniture and effects. The Misses Dobbie showed great courage in the circumstances. Miss Eva Dobbie, the younger sister, vividly described her experience. She said:—"When I awoke I was alarmed by the great light from the flames, and at once called my mother, sister, and brother. We got all our valuables out of the house, and then sought outside help. A number of men rendered aid, and in a short time the house was cleared of our furniture. We managed to get our piano and organ out safely. The first intimation of the fire I received was the glare from the flames at the Apollo works. I saw that the roof of the factory was all ablaze, and that some of the timber was burning. All the helpers willingly came to our assistance and cleared both houses of the furniture, for which we are very thankful. The houses were insured for a small sum."

Mr. R. Irwin endorsed what Miss Dobbie said, and was emphatic that the fire when he saw it at 1 a.m. was burning first in the front buildings, near the sawmills. His wife lost a purse containing £4 in the fire.

ORIGIN OF FIRE NOT KNOWN.

Nothing is known as to the origin of the fire, which is supposed to have commenced near the steam boilers, of which there are three. Mrs. Leah Morgan, who lives on the opposite side of the road to Messrs. Michell & Sons, was disturbed in her sleep at 12.45 a.m. on Wednesday by the noise of a passing vehicle, and on looking through her window saw smoke arising from the Apollo works. A few minutes later flames leapt up, and she called her husband. The fire, she said, was burning some time before the hooter sounded the alarm at the gas works.

Sergeant Radford was within a hundred yards of the Apollo works at midnight, but he did not notice any indication of fire.

Herbert Batson saw the illumination about 1 a.m., and he rung the fire alarm at the corner of Richard and Manton streets, and the hooter sounded the alarm, which called out the local fire brigade. The response of the brigade was prompt.

The flames spread with lightning rapidity, for within five minutes of the sounding of the hooter the whole of the Apollo Works were in flames, and there was no hope of saving any part of the buildings.

Constable Halden was on the scene when the hooter sounded. He said the flames were rising from the centre of the building facing Adam-street, in which was the machinery. The fire at once spread in all directions. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade were on the scene in a few minutes, but, according to the constable, the firemen had no possible chance of being able to do any-thing to prevent the flames from extending. This statement is confirmed by Mr. J. J. Lee, who said the flames on his arrival after the sounding of the hooter were leaping out from the region of the sawmills and were working in a westerly direction. Amongst the early arrivals was Sergeant Radford, who, with Constables Halden. Gurry, and Bond, did all he could to prevent the crowd from running risks. Later on police from Adelaide arrived at the fire.

WATCHMAN ON LEAVE

When the men left work at the Apollo works at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday everything was in good order, and, as usual, a careful look around the premises was made by the men. The night watchman, H. Freberg, then took charge and saw nothing irregular on the premises. He was not at the works when the fire broke out as he was on leave for the night.

POOR WATER PRESSURE

The water pressure was very poor. Only a four-inch main runs along Adam-street; although further eastward in Torrens street, from the Port-road to near the Jolly Miller Hotel, a larger main has been laid.

In consequence of the low water pressure 1,400 ft. of hose was run out from Adam-street to the corner of Milner and Chap-man streets near Dr. Bonnin's residence, and a hydrant was fixed on to the 10-inch main. Even with this and the four-inch main the water supply was insufficient. For some years reference has been made to what might take place at these factories from want of sufficient water pressure should they get on fire. Now that this has happened steps may be taken to have a larger main in the neighborhood of the factories. The business firms have been most anxious for this.

Chief Officer Duncan, of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, complained of the low water pressure, especially in the early stages of the outbreak. Frequent tests of the pressure in Adam-street, he said, had been made. The highest was 45 lb., and sometimes it was lower than 30 lb. In the interest of the public and for the protection of the large factories in that neighborhood it was essential that a 10-inch main should run right along from the Port-road through Torrens and Adam streets, which are in line, excepting that there is a detour round the Torrens River bank. His brigade had in use at the fire 2,500 ft. of hose.

THE BRIGADES

Although the fire broke out about 1 a.m. the metropolitan brigade was not summoned to assist in fighting the flames till 1.25. A steamer and the chemical waggon were then sent to the scene. Hindmarsh is not within the area in which the metropolitan brigade operates. It must be confessed that an outbreak like that at the Apollo works was too big an affair to be dealt with by the Hindmarsh Volunteer brigade notwithstanding that it is efficient for smaller fires and well organised. The local brigade did excellent work, and but for their early efforts no doubt the Sterlingshire tannery would have caught alight.

When seen by a representative of "The Advertiser" on Wednesday evening Super-intendent Rickwood stated that the brigade received a telephone message from Mr. Michell, of Messrs. G. H. Michell and Sons, about 1.25 a.m., asking him for protection of the firm's premises. The brigade immediately responded to the call and dispatched the 500-gallon steamer, 1,200 ft. of hose, and nine men. It took eighteen minutes to arrive on the scene, and they promptly got to work fighting the flames. On arrival they found the Apollo-works, Messrs. Willcox's skin and hide premises and the corner of Messrs. Michell's wool-scouring shed ablaze. Superintendent Rickwood placed the steamer in position, and ran one line of hose on to the main to protect Messrs. Michell's premises. He found that the flames on the southern side were just spreading to Messrs. David Reid's premises. He immediately sent to the head station for extra men and appliances, and it was lucky, the superintendent stated, that the brigade saved the premises. Had there been a strong wind blowing the whole block would have been demolished. The water supply was quite inadequate to cope with the fire, and on three occasions he thought it would spread further at the time the wind began to shift. To have proper protection at Hindmarsh a permanent brigade was necessary and should be established. The members of the Hindmarsh volunteer brigade did their work well. Altogether the head station dispatched 13 men, 2,500 ft. of hose, and two appliances. The majority of the men returned to the head station about 7:30 a.m., and the rest at noon. The hoses were brought up at 7 p.m. The superintendent stated that he found the spectators present most obliging and willing to do anything when called upon.

MR. W. BURFORD INTERVIEWED

When communicated with Mr. W. Burford said he had no idea as to the origin of the fire. The men left work at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday for the Christmas holidays, and at that time and 11 p.m. at night the premises were safe.

Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons announce that arrangements have been made to carry on their business in connection with the Apollo works at once.

Mr. H. M. Radcliffe, the manager of the Apollo works, who resides with his brother, Mr. H. M. Radcliffe, said the first intimation he received of the fire, was from some one who knocked at the door of his brother's house, and called out, "Your place is on fire." "I awoke," continued Mr. Radcliffe, "my brother, and at once rang up the Metropolitan Fire Brigade from our house. I then went to the scene of the fire. I was at Frearson's Printing House at 11 p.m., when all was right. When called I at once went to the scene of the fire, and my first thought was to turn on the sprinkler, which would act the same as a shower-bath, to extinguish the flames in the main building, but this could not be done as the fire was too far advanced. I got the books out of the office. Some trouble was experienced in getting the three horses out of the stable, and one of our men was severely burnt while doing this. The last man on the premises was the stableman, who fed the horses at 10 p.m. Everything then was all right. The Apollo business will be carried on without interruption. Our Mr. Bowen and

Mr. W. Burford arrived during the progress of the fire. The premises are insured in the Yorkshire office, but I cannot give the amounts:"

INSURANCES

Messrs. Burford & Sons' Apollo works, were insured in the Yorkshire Insurance Company for £11,565. Mrs. Dobbie's property was insured in the same company for £150. Messrs. Michell & Sons' building and contents carried an insurance in the Union Company of £17,000. Messrs. Willcox & Co.'s premises were insured with Messrs. Gibbs, Bright, & Co.. but the amount is not known. Mr. David Reid's tannery was insured in the Royal Company, but the amount is unknown.

WILLCOX & CO.

Messrs. Willcox & Co.'s wooden and iron building was destroyed, but the total amount of loss cannot yet be estimated.

CALLS RECEIVED AND SPECTATORS,

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received calls in connection with the conflagration from Grey and Gouger streets, North-terrace, and Hurtle-square. The various suburban brigades also received calls from Cowell's Corner, Norwood, Unley-road, Unley, and Barton-terrace, North Adelaide.

A remarkable feature of the fire, considering the hour of the outbreak, was the wide area from which the immense crowd of spectators came. Side by side were seen residents from almost every suburb.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 28 December 1907, page 38

GREAT FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

ESTIMATED LOSS £70,000

About 1 a.m. on Christmas Day the Apollo works, Adam-street, Hindmarsh, belonging to Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons, were found to be on fire. This firm manufactured on these premises extract of soap, starch, blue, blacking, soda crystals, lubricating oils and grease. Consequently the place was full of inflammable material. The fire spread with tremendous rapidity, and although the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade was soon on the scene the works were completely destroyed.

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following the Torrens River. Mr. Wilcox's premises face Torrens-street at the back. The approximate value of all these premises is £120,000 or more, and from 200 to 250 men and boys altogether were employed. About 65 men and boys were employed at the Apollo works, and 60 altogether at Messrs. Michell & Sons' and Messrs. Willcox & Co.'s. A rough estimate of the loss at the Apollo works is about £50,000. and at Messrs. Michell & Sons' from £15,000 to £20,000. The Apollo works are insured in the Yorkshire office, and Messrs. G. H. Michell & Sons' were covered by insurance in the Union office. In about an hour after the start of the fire the Apollo works were completely gutted. All that was left were the burning uprights that had supported the roof. The outside walls were of brick, but the partitions were of timber; in fact, most of the buildings were of timber and galvanized iron. After a time the great brick walls gave way, and the brickwork was strewn right across Adam-street. From out of the burning building flowed streams of burning pitch and resin. Frequent detonations, caused by the burning resin flowing down the watertable in one mass of flame, alarmed the people, and made them cautious of closing in too near. In one shed, separated from Messrs. Michell & Sons by a wall, was a quantity of fire kindlers and the material for making these. The conflagration there was great indeed, but the fire-fighters did splendid work at that spot. Mr. H. M. Radcliffe's office, abutting on Adam-street, with all its contents, was completely destroyed. The whole of the books, however, were saved. Just outside was a 2-in. gas main, leading into the works. Mr. E Ryles, a gas employe, succeeded in removing the gas meter near the office, but he was not able, owing to the fierceness of the flames, to turn the cock, and a large flame from the pipe was burning a considerable time before the supply was turned off. The brick wall facing Adam-street fell out on to the road, and some of the bricks reached the opposite side. On the river side the fire was extending towards Messrs. Willcox & Co.'s skin establishment. Tongues of fire burst out, and all sorts of colors were to be seen turning night into day with the intenseness of their illumination. Amongst the shades of colors visible were pink, heliotrope, blue, and green, but these were all suddenly absorbed by the bursting out of an immense volume of white flame that licked up the water that had fallen on to the ground. The spectacle was a magnificent, although an awful, one. There were 120 or more casks of resin stored for use, and when this and the timber and other inflammable material got ablaze the flames leapt to a great height. Although the devastation was appalling, the magnificence of the scene caused wonder to the immense crowd of spectators. At 2.45 a.m. the fire obtained a hold on Messrs. J. H. Michell & Sons' woolscouring establishment, and the work of the brigade was transferred to these buildings. The large new shed, erected about three years ago, in which was stored a large quantity of wool in bales, of an estimated value of from £15,000 to £20,000, caught alight. Here there is a scene of great devastation. The firemen fought the flames, but in vain, for once the wool caught alight the flames leapt from bale to bale, until there was a solid mass of fire, extending an immense height. The firemen were driven back again and again, but they were not undaunted, and from different coigns of vantage they poured streams of water into the mass of fire. The front part of the buildings was thus protected and saved intact from damage. About 3 a.m. the fire caught Mr. David Reid's tannery on its western side, which is divided from the Apollo works by a brick wall, but very little damage was done. The firemen, a number of Mr. Reid's employes, and others kept the flames away, but there was a big fight for mastery, as close to the wall that separates the tannery from the Apollo works was a large quantity of inflammable material that burnt in a manner that caused everyone to think that total destruction faced the tannery. Eventually the wall was broken down by the firemen, who, while situated inside the tannery amongst the pits, poured a

stream of water on the burning mass. At 4 a.m. all danger had passed, and Mr. J. H. Reid, the manager, was rejoicing at the success of the firefighters. This is the second largest tannery at Hindmarsh, and at which about 60 or 70 men are employed. About 1.10 a.m. the fire spread to the dwellinghouse of Mrs. R. T. Dobbie, on the east of the Apollo works, and Constables Ryan and Bond and a host of helpers removed the furniture. By 2.15 the house was quite gutted. Owing to the great pressure of work on the part of the combined brigades elsewhere little attention could be given to this house. Mr. R. Irwin, a tenant, who occupied one of the houses, also, removed his furniture. It was pitiful to see these homeless people on a vacant piece of land in charge of their furniture and effects. The Misses Dobbie showed great courage in the circumstances. Miss Eva, Dobbie, the younger sister, vividly described her experience. She said:— "When I awoke I was alarmed by the great light from the flames, and at once called my mother, sister, and brother. We got all our valuables out of the house, and then sought outside help. A number of men rendered aid, and in a short time the house was cleared of our furniture. We managed to get our piano and organ out safely. The first intimation of the fire I received was the glare from the flames at the Apollo works. I saw that the roof of the factory was all ablaze, and that some of the timber was burning. All the helpers willingly came to our assistance and cleared both houses of the furniture, for which we are very thankful. The houses were insured for a small sum. Mr. R. Irwin endorsed what Miss Dobbie said, and was emphatic that the fire when he saw it at 1 a.m. was burning first in the front buildings, near the sawmills. His wife lost a purse containing £4 in the fire. Nothing is known as to the origin of the fire, which is supposed to have commenced near the steam boilers, of which there are three. When the men left work at the Apollo works at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday everything was in good order, and, as usual, a careful look around the premises was made by the men. The night watchman, H. Freberg, then took charge and saw nothing irregular on the premises. He was not at the works when the fire broke out as he was on leave for the night. The water pressure was very poor. Only a four-inch main runs along Adam-street, although further eastward in Torrens street, from the Port-road to near the Jolly Miller Hotel, a larger main has been laid. In consequence of the low water pressure 1,400 ft. of hose was run out from Adam street to the corner of Milner and Chapman streets near Dr. Bonnin's residence, and a hydrant was fixed on to the 10-inch main. Even with this and the four-inch main the water supply was insufficient. For some years reference has been made to what might take place at these factories from want of sufficient water pressure should they get on fire. Now that this has happened steps may be taken to have a larger main in the neighborhood of the factories. The business firms have been most anxious for this. Although the fire broke out about 1 a.m. the metropolitan brigade was not summoned to assist in fighting the flames till 1.25. A steamer and the chemical waggon were then sent to the scene. Hindmarsh is not within the area in which the metropolitan brigade operates. It must be confessed that an outbreak like that at the Apollo works was too big an affair to be dealt with by the Hindmarsh volunteer brigade, notwithstanding that it is efficient for smaller fires and well organised. The local brigade did excellent work, and but for their early efforts no doubt the Sterlingshire tannery would have caught alight. When seen by a representative of "The Advertiser" on Wednesday evening Superintendent Rickwood stated that the brigade received a telephone message from Mr. Michell, of Messrs. G. H. Michell and Sons, about 1.25 a.m., asking him for protection of the firm's premises. The brigade immediately responded to the call and dispatched the 500-gallon steamer, 1,200 ft. of hose, and nine men. It took eighteen minutes to arrive on the scene and they promptly got to work fighting the flames. On arrival they found the Apollo works, Messrs. Willcox's skin and

hide premises and the corner of Messrs. Michell's wool scouring shed ablaze. Superintendent Rickwood placed the steamer in position, and ran one line of hose on to the main to protect Messrs. Michell's premises. He found that the flames on the southern side were just spreading to Messrs. David Reid's premises. He immediately sent to the head station for extra men and appliances, and it was lucky, the superintendent stated, that the brigade saved the premises. Had there been a strong wind blowing the whole block would have been demolished. The water supply was quite inadequate to cope with the fire, and on three occasions he thought it would spread further at the time the wind began to shift. To have proper protection at Hindmarsh a permanent brigade was necessary and should be established. The members of the Hindmarsh volunteer brigade did their work well. Altogether the head station dispatched 13 men, 2,500 ft. of hose, and two appliances. The majority of the men returned to the head station about 7.30 a.m., and the rest at noon. The hoses were brought up at 7 p.m. The superintendent stated that he found the spectators present most obliging and willing to do anything when called upon. When communicated with Mr. W. Burford said he had no idea as to the origin of the fire. The men left work at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday for the Christmas-holidays, and at that time and 11 p.m. at night the premises were safe. Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons announce that arrangements have been made to carry on their business in connection with the Apollo works at once. Mr. H. M. Radcliffe, the manager of the Apollo works, said the first intimation he received of the fire was from some one who knocked at the door of his brother's house, and called out, "Your place is on fire." "I awoke," continued Mr. Radcliffe, "My brother, and at once rang up the Metropolitan Fire Brigade from our house. I then went to the scene of the fire. I was at Frearson's Printing House at 11 p.m., when all was right. When called I at once went to the scene of the fire, and my first thought was to turn on the sprinkler which would act the same as a shower-bath, to extinguish the flames in the main building, but this could not be done, as the fire was too far advanced. I got the books out of the office. Some trouble was experienced in getting the three horse's out of the stable, and one of our men was severely burnt while doing this. The last man on the premises was the stableman, who fed the horses at 10. p.m. Everything then was all right. The Apollo business will be carried on without interruption. Our Mr. Bowen and Mr. W. Burford arrived during the progress of the fire. The premises are insured in the Yorkshire office, but I cannot give the amounts. Messrs. Burford & Sons' Apollo works, were insured in the Yorkshire Insurance Company for £11,565. Mrs. Dobbie's property was insured in the same company for £150. Messrs. Michell & Sons' building and contents carried an insurance in the Union Company of £17,000. Messrs. Willcox & Co.'s premises were insured with Messrs. Gibbs, Bright, & Co., for £8,430 in the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation. Mr. David Reid's tannery was insured in the Royal Company for £18,545. Messrs. Willcox & Co.'s wooden and iron building was destroyed, but the total amount of loss cannot yet be estimated.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 28 December 1907, page 6

THE HINDMARSH FIRE.

The City Coroner (Dr. Ramsay Smith) has decided that an inquest on the cause of the Hindmarsh fire is unnecessary.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 26 December 1907, page 1

ACRES OF FIRE

A MIGHTY BLAZE.

MANUFACTURING AREA SWEPT

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £50,000

While weary wayfarers who had spent Christmas Eve in the merriest and heartiest of manners were plodding to their suburban homes to the accompaniment of such songs as "We won't go home till morning" and "The more we drink together the merrier we'll be," and while choristers were singing joyous Christmas carols, heralding the season of peace and goodwill, the fire fiend in demoniacal sportiveness, was preparing perhaps the greatest pyrotechnic display that has ever been witnessed in Adelaide. Soon after 1 a.m. on Wednesday, flames to the north-west of the city lit up the sky and people scanned the horizon and tried to locate the blaze. Some said Port Adelaide was on fire, but information was soon spread to the effect that the conflagration was raging at Hindmarsh. Motor cars, cabs, traps, cyclists, horsemen, and pedestrians were soon hurrying down the Port road. The Morphett street overway bridge and other wonts of vantage were crowded with sightseers. As Hindmarsh was approached people hurrying along the footpath passed the word one to the other "It's Burfords," and immediately the memory was carried back to December 16, 22 years ago, when the same firm's old factory in Grenfell street was gutted and torrents of burning fat and resin raced along the gutters into park lands.

The Man who Gave the Alarm

The scene of the present fire was Adam street, Hindmarsh, the centre of a big manufacturing area. The local volunteer fire brigade received two alarms almost simultaneously about 1 a.m. Jack Lynch, trolley driver for George Wilcox & Co., skin and hide merchants, was with some companions listening to the Christmas carols, when he heard an ominous crackling noise, and having discovered the fire he gave the alarm. He then rushed around and rescued the horses and vehicles belonging to his firm. Albert King was the man who gave the other alarm. The local brigade was quickly on the spot, but when it arrived the fire had got a complete hold of Burford's factory. Mr. H. M. Radcliffe, manager for Burford's Apollo Works, and Mr. E. Radcliffe, manager for Frearson's Printing House, on the opposite side of Adam street, live together, not a stone's throw away. The latter was awakened—he does not know by whom—and apprised of the fire. He rang up the Metropolitan Brigade, then aroused his brother, and the two hastened to the Apollo Works to recover the books. Mr. F. A. Bowen, the managing director for Burford & Sons, Limited, who lives at Maylands, was communicated with by telephone, and he reached the spot soon after 1.30 a.m. Mr. William Burford, who resides at Glenelg, was also sent for, and Dr. O'Leary kindly drove them over in his motor car. When they left the Bay, the fire was so deceptive, that Dr. O'Leary said it did not look half a mile away. An awe-inspiring spectacle. People arrived in hundreds from the vicinity and from the city and suburbs, and soon there were thousands present. They witnessed an awe-inspiring spectacle. The flame-tongues mounted a hundred feet high, are fed by highly inflammable and varied chemical materials, there was a transformation in colour effect every moment. From red it changed to blue and green and pink and saffron; then on a sudden there would be a loud report and the mighty furnace would belch forth a cloud of inky blackness which would overcast everything. The bright colours would soon reassert themselves, and great puffy-looking balls white smoke would tumble and somersault in the flames with airy and fascinating grace. The effect was glorious. The fire is supposed to have started in the engine room near the office in the Apollo works, and from

the outset it was realized that it was hopeless to think of saving the premises. What wind there was blew from the north-west, but the flames did not require much fanning. They raged with a fury that dumbfounded the spectators. Efforts were made to save G. Wilcox & Co.'s skin and hide establishment and G. H. Michell & Sons' woollscouring premises, and men were posted on the roof of David Reid's Stirlingshire Tannery, which up to the very last seemed to be doomed. Wilcox's building was completely gutted, and then the flames licked around and began to demolish Michell & Sons' big galvanized iron store, which was heavily stocked with bales of wool. Two cottages to the east of Burford's could have been saved; but Superintendent Rickwood wisely decided to concentrate his efforts on protecting David Reid's large tannery. Very soon the blaze caught the cottages. Doors and window sashes went like catherine wheels, glass cracked, and then, with the greater current of air caused by the openings, the fire fairly raced along, and the iron roof crinkled like tissue paper. The chimney of one house toppled and fell. Sometime before this the wall of Burford's abutting on Adam street had tumbled with a crash into the roadway, bringing down the tele-phone wire. A Pathetic Incident The heat was intense, and the glare was so great that one would have thought all the electric light that ever was manufactured was concentrated around the three or four burning acres. When the cottages caught fire an opossum, which has been quite an identity in the neighbourhood for several years, was forced to leave his too warm cosy corner in the roof, and sprang into the almond trees. The little marsupial was stoned by boys as it jumped from limb to limb, and its last leap brought it to the ground. In fear of its life it raced over the wall and down into the heart of the fire, where it was soon eaten up.

How Reid's Tannery was Saved

One of the hottest corners of the fight centred around the northern portion of the west side of Reid's tannery. When the fire threatened the tannery soon after the arrival of the brigade, first Lieut. Wakefield and Firemen Miller and Smith of the Volunteer Brigade were ordered to take up a position on the roof of the building and endeavour to stem the tide of flame that seemed certain to complete the destruction of the block. The stocks of oil located in the rear of the Apollo works were well alight, and leaping high in the air, were roaring with a fury that was unequalled anywhere else. The wind drove the flames onward toward the tannery, the heat was intense, and the trio of firefighters had to shield themselves behind wet bags in order to maintain the post. The single stream of water at their command was miserably small and for a long time it seemed that their efforts would prove fruitless. For more than two hours they persevered, and then the fire secured a hold on the buiding which had so long been denied. It quickly made its way along the woodwork below the roof covering the tanpits, and a change of tactics became necessary. Knocking a hole in the wall the men carried the line of hose inside the building, and their efforts conjointly with the change of wind, which opportunely occurred at the moment, enabled them to save the tannery. The tan liquors were mixed and other damage was done, but as Mr. J. M. Reid afterwards remarked, the tannery had a miraculous escape. All this while the 1,500 bales of wool in G. H. Michell's store was blazing with tremendous force. The sheets of galvanized iron seemed to receive electric shocks from the heat, and they darted away in the air like rose petals blown by the breeze. The few wool bales which had been tumbled out in the road ignited. Then the myriad sparks lit the fennel growing by the Torrens. To those who were in the thick of the flames, the heat and the smoke, it seemed like a veritable inferno let loose.

A Wonderful Sight

Day was never so bright, and it is impossible to adequately describe the extraordinary picture presented. The opposite bank of the river was lined with thousands of people—men, women, and children—most of them attired in light apparel, some only in sleeping garments, and the array of bare legs and faces stood out in remarkable relief. Those studies in silhouette will live in one's memory.

The Damage

The Apollo works, which were completely gutted, were insured—that is, building and contents, in the Yorkshire Company for £11,565. G. H. Michell & Sons, who are great sufferers, have policies in the Union Company for £17,000. Mr. George Wilcox, who was on the scene early on Wednesday morning, said, "Well, it has made a clean sweep of my place. Mr. William Mofflin and I were the originators of the establishment 25 years ago. It now belongs to my two sons in Sydney, and to my son Sydney, and Mr. Glen Legoe. I sold the Apollo works to Burford & Sons about 15 years ago." When spoken to on Wednesday, Mr. Legoe said, "We had only finished taking stock at 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning. So far as the insurance company is concerned, it could not have come at a better time for them, as we have not had such a light stock for months past." G. H. Michell and Sons were heavily stocked. One of the brothers, as he surveyed the ruins on Wednesday, said, "My brother, who could tell you most about our loss, is ill in bed. I said to him yesterday, "I cannot wish you a merry Christmas." And now this has come on top of it. The damage from one end to the other can safely be put down at £50,000."

Volunteer Fire Brigade

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade got the first news of the fire about 1 a.m. when two shutters dropped almost simultaneously. The alarms were given from Adam and Richard streets. The men who were on duty manned the reel and proceeded to the fire at once. Chief officer J. Duncan, of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade, said that when he heard the gasworks hooter, he immediately turned out. The men on night duty had preceded him, and were busy at the scene of the fire. He was somewhat surprised to find the fire had got a tremendous hold. Practically the main building of Messrs. Burford and the work of protecting Michell's and flames were shooting up to the height of the top of the smoke stack, nearly 100 ft. The heat was terrific. Either a tardy alarm had been given, or the fire had spread with phenomenal speed. At first glance, knowing the inflammable nature of the materials on Messrs. Burford & Co.'s property he directed all the energy of the brigade under his command (15 strong) to the work of protecting Mitchell's and David Reid's premises. The task before the local men appeared herculean, but they tackled it bravely, and though the fire was of unprecedented size, in the knowledge of the brigade they were not daunted.

Wretched Water Supply

Mr. Duncan said he got two lines of hose into play from Adam street, but the water supply was poor. He could easily have manned another hose, and perhaps more, but to have done so would only have reduced the force to each line, and made them practically useless. As it was the meagre streams had little or no effect on the fire, which spread in every direction with alarming rapidity. Soon Burford's was completely ablaze. Resin, pitch, oil, and other highly inflammable stuff added to the fierceness of the fire as it enveloped each building and loud reports of bursting tanks gave onlookers the impression that benzine or

other explosives were stored in the fire zone in large quantities. Such was not the case, however, and probably the presence of oil in sealed drums was responsible for the detonations. The miserable water supply made it absolutely impossible to cope with the flames in Burford's premises at all, so the surrounding buildings were saturated as far as possible to prevent the flames from spreading further. Shortly after the arrival of the Volunteer Brigade Mr. E. Radcliffe rang up the metropolitan brigade, which arrived about half an hour after the local men got to the fire. Chief Officer Duncan made every possible arrangement to supply the steamer with sufficient water. It was necessary to lay 1,500 ft. of hose from a 10-in. main in Chapman street, as that was the nearest main of decent size. In Adam and the surrounding streets there are only 4-in. mains with a poor pressure, and these proved totally inadequate to the demands of the steamer. From the engine two fresh lines of hose were run, but one of those in use from the small main in Adam street had to be diverted into the supply tank. Even then the fire engine raced and pumped air owing to the short supply. To effectively cope with a fire such as this it would be necessary to have two or even three powerful steamers working at full pressure. The miserable dribbles which were brought to play on the flames were converted into steam almost before they touched the burning matter. Taking every-thing into consideration the firemen are to be commended for the plucky manner in which they stuck to the hopeless task of confining the flames into the area which was on fire when they arrived on the scene. The local council and manufacturers have repeatedly urged upon the authorities the necessity for having larger mains in some of the streets in the vicinity of the big tanneries in that part of the town. A few years ago matters were improved slightly by the laying of a connecting main along the Grange road which joined the Port Adelaide and Semaphore supply from Happy Valley. This was the 10-in. pipe which was availed of, but as it was nearly a third of a mile from the fire it will easily be seen how the brigade was handicapped.

Working in a Danger Zone

On account of the large space which the fire covered and the difficulty at getting at the seat of the conflagration, the fire-men were often in imminent danger of losing their lives. On one occasion several men were within an ace of being entirely cut off from aid. Wilcox's yard once caught burnt like tinder, and those working in the vicinity had to beat a hasty retreat. One of the local men got the impression as he was scrambling out a member of the metropolitan brigade had been caught in Wilcox's, and called a halt while an inspection was made. He and his companions were on the adjoining premises of Messrs. G. H. Mitchell & Sons. Almost immediately the bales of wool on which they stood caught fire at one end, and the flames spread so rapidly that it was for a moment feared that the men were really cut off from safety. A wild dash was made, in which several were seen to fall, and until they regained a less perilous position nothing could be done to check the numbers. Then fortunately it was found that all had got out of the shed, which in the space of a few seconds was roaring like a furnace. The fireman who was first missed was subsequently found out in the street safe and sound.

Supt. Rickwood's Statement

Superintendent Rickwood, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, said the Hindmarsh Volunteers arrived on the scene at 1 a.m., but the Metropolitan Brigade did not receive a call until 1.25 a.m. The 500-gal. steamer, with 1,200 ft. of hose, and nine men, turned at once and made the run in 18 minutes—a creditable performance for so heavy a piece of machinery. On

arrival the Apollo Works, and Wilcox's and Michell's premises were so much alight that it was deemed waste of time to play upon the burning portions, and attention was devoted to keeping the fire from spreading further into Michell's store with one line—1,500 ft.—of hose from the 10-in. main. The force of water was so small, owing to the resistance along so great a length of hose, that only 40 galls. a minute flowed through—a totally inadequate pressure for so large a fire. Superintendent Rickwood went around Torrens street, and finding Reid's tannery unprotected sent to the city for the chemical engine and extra hose and men, which, aided by a fortunate change in the direction of the wind, saved the tannery from destruction. On several occasions during the early hours the whole of Michell's building was in imminent danger of destruction. The main building got alight on one occasion, and with only one line of hose it was a big fight to beat the fire back to the burning wool store. The flames spread destruction no further than had been reached when the Metropolitan Brigade arrived. At the height of the blaze the city firefighters had 2,500 ft. of hose and 13 men engaged. At 7.20 a.m. the men returned, leaving an engineer and driver with the steam fire engine; but at 7.30 a message was received from Michell & Co.'s summoning them again, when all the appliances were sent that could be spared in view of the necessary protection of the city; but fortunately there was no great danger of the fire spreading further. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade worked well, and proved very willing and ready to obey orders. The public also rendered assistance in removing wool from the danger zone. Protection of Hindmarsh Superintendent Rickwood, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, when questioned in regard to the necessity for further protection in case of fire at the manufacturing town of Hindmarsh, expressed the emphatic opinion that another 10-in. main was necessary in proximity to the bulk of the factories. "On Christmas morning," he said, "the first supplies obtained by the Hindmarsh volunteers were taken from three plugs in the 4-in. main in Adam street, and this pipe, having been down a good many years, of course, yielded little volume of water. The force from the 10-in. main subsequently tapped was greatly reduced by the supply having to be brought 1,300 ft., besides the inconvenience to the brigades in time and material of having so much hose to connect and keep in use for one line of service. Had there been a strong wind at any time on Wednesday morning nothing could have saved the remaining premises in the block from destruction. All credit is due to the Hindmarsh volunteers for their work; but I must state without reservation that the dangerous position of Hindmarsh will not be minimized to any great extent unless a permanent brigade is established there, into which a number of the present volunteers might be taken to assist. If a branch of the Metropolitan Brigade were opened in the town a steamer would have to be stationed at Hindmarsh which could be got to work at a large blaze pending the arrival of a second steamer from the city. With better local appliances and a larger main the two cottages could have been saved on Wednesday; but in the circumstances I had to choose between letting Reid's tannery, and chose what seemed the lesser evil, as all the furniture had been removed from the residences. In the circumstances of the case I have nothing but praise for the Hindmarsh men, who worked like Trojans, but the appliances at command were not commensurate with the requirements of a large manufacturing centre."

The Destroyed Buildings

The fire covered, roughly speaking, a block of ground 400 ft. by 600 ft. The greater portion of this space was owned by Messrs. Burford & Co., who carried on the staple portion of many of their manufactures there. There was a complete starchmaking plant of large dimensions,

which occupied several of the principal buildings, a soap extract factory, a large sawmill and boxmaking establishment, and appliances, for making blacking, Brunswick black, blacklead, blue, and fire kindlers. All the buildings were single story with the exception of the soap extract mill, which had two floors. Portions of the other places were also divided into two floors, and Burfords property might be said to cover a block 300 ft. frontage by 400 ft. in depth. At the rear there was another extension of their property, covering about 40 ft. by 80 ft., which was known as the Chrystal soda works. Adjacent to this was the also totally destroyed premises of Messrs. G. Wilcox & Co., where skin drying and packing for export was carried out. On the north-west corner Michell's woollscouring mills suffered severely. A large substantially built galvanized iron and wood shed was burnt, and it s computed from 1,200 to 1,500 bales of greasy wool was damaged by fire or water. Much of the wool—of which there was a particularly large quantity, consequent on the recent wool season—was entirely consumed, while huge quantities are still smouldering. It is feared that unless the wool can be moved and dried quickly it may become heated because of the water which saturates it, and may then become valueless altogether. Burford's premises were a mixture of stone and galvanized iron buildings. Large quantities of timber were stacked in the sawmill and boxmaking portions, and in that place the fire appears to have been exceedingly fierce. Much costly and new machinery now lies twisted and broken almost out of recognition. There were many enormous pans and vats used in the starchmaking, of which only scattered traces remain in the bent sheets of heavy iron which lie about. Among the machinery was a 24-h.p. and a 12-h.p. steam engine, three large boilers, four circular saws, one of which was a fine new self-feeding machine, which had only just come into use. After the fire it was broken and bent in such a manner that it will probably be of little use except as old iron; two extract mills, and a refining mill. The Apollo works employed 100 hands. Burford and Sons, Limited, notify their customers by advertisement that they will be able to supply their requirements in the usual way.

SCENE AT DAYBREAK

Brilliant though the fire was through its early hours, the pall of night half-con-cealed the real extent of the devastation wroupght by the flames, and not until day dawn revealed the full desolation of the expansive area could an adequate idea of the damage be obtained. Viewed from Torrens road, which skirts the north bank of the river, the Apollo works presented the spectacle of a turbulent sea of galvanized iron. Sheets of this material, bent and twisted into every conceivable shape, lay thickly strewn over the site of the soapworks. practically every other vestige of which had been completely demolished. On the eastern side, Reid's tannery marked the boundary where the progress of the fire had been checked. The structure right up to this line had fallen before the fury of the flames, and the tannery had only been saved as by a miracle. The firemen had had to break down the brick wall which separated the premises in order to provide a point of vantage from which to attack the blaze, which, in spite of every effort directed from the outside, had gained a firm hold of the roof supports. How opportunely the change of wind had come was evident from the deep chars on the outer line of posts. Of Wilcox's woollscouring buildings immediately west of the soapworks only an inferno of burning debris remained, and Michell's large stocks of wool had been reduced to two shapeless heaps. The portion of their premises on the corner of Torrens road and Adam street, which contained the lesser amount of the stock, was not seriously hurt, but stretching away to the part which had been totally destroyed, lay a wide area carpeted with a deep mass of loose, smouldering, sodden wool. The Adam Street Frontage The

wreckage of the Apollo works, as seen from Adam street, presented a pitiable appearance. This was not only the starting point, but the heart of the fire, and the large chimney stack at the rear was the only thing intact. About three acres of buildings had been razed, and the completeness of the devastation showed how furiously the fire had raged. An odd bit of wall here and there was all that remained standing of the masonry, and the sole indications of the supports were the charcoal butts of half a dozen, up-rights. The front wall of the building, which collapsed early, had fallen outward, and one section lay flat as like the walls of Jericho. Among these ruins, ran streams of tan-brown water, and further on the butters were clogged with a thick cake of hardened pitch, which had ran in a flaring mass from the burnt stacks of that material in the works. The two attached cottages east of the factory did not at first appear to have passed through such a severe ordeal, as the walls were standing, and the front verandah and out-houses had escaped practically untouched. A Peep inside, however, revealed that not a stick of flooring joists, roof beams, or internal fittings were left. The walls were, as clean as a body of workmen could have left them. Spectators had watched for an hour or more the flames devouring the woodwork, and leaping high into the air through the gaps of the buckled redhot iron, expecting a collapse each moment; but though every inch of rafters was consumed, the front portion of the roof held together in position after the fire had burnt itself out.

A Veritable Inferno

The business carried on at the Apollo works necessitated the use of such materials as formed splendid food for a big blaze. The goods manufactured comprised fire kindlers, lubricating oil, Brunswick black, starch, soap extract, blacking, and blacklead. In conjunction with these manufactures the firm carried on a box factory, and a quantity of light timber was necessarily stored in addition to inflammable ingredients for the goods mentioned. Included in the stock were large quantities of resin and pitch, extract of soap ready for packing, 400 or 00 casks of soda, and two stacks of starch ready for use, one in the starch room containing 70 tons, and a smaller one in another part of the building. The lighter materials were quickly consumed, but the heaps of starch became thoroughly heated right through and burned like coal. There was this difference that when the hoses were turned upon it the outer surface caked and became impervious and the inner mass retained its fervid condition. At brief intervals as the bulk settled down bodies of flame broke out and demanded constant attention from the firemen. The work of the firefighters was exceedingly arduous. The heat of the summer day was quite enough for ordinary people, but these men who had been toiling all night had still to keep to their task during the day amid the furnace heat of the ruins in order to quench the fierce and repeated out-bursts. Huge iron vats contorted into all sorts of fantastic shapes, machinery that bore evidence of having been at white heat, thousands sheets of crumpled galvanized iron, numerous oil drums and kerosine tins, and the large steam boilers retained, under the scorching sun, much of the terrific heat which had been generated by the fire, and amid these surroundings, which reminded sinful spectators of what they might experience hereafter, that is, presuming they believe in everlasting damnation, the firemen had to spend their Christmas Day. To their credit be it said they worked manfully and uncomplainingly, and Hindmarsh has reason to be proud of its little band of volunteers. Homeless and Cheerless Christmas A pathetic incident in connection with the fire was the predicament of the homeless people from the two cottages destroyed. The houses had been occupied by Mrs. A. R. T. Dobbie and daughters and Mr. R. Irwin, who, with the help of friends, had been able to save nearly all their furniture. In the

hurry, however, most of the goods had simply been dumped in a vacant lot beside the residence, and all Christmas morning the two women sat beneath umbrellas in the blazing sun reflecting over happier Yuletides past, and guarding heaps of apparel and furniture that had been snatched from the flames. By about noon, however, all the articles were safely stored, and the homeless people gratefully accessed the hospitality of friends.

1908

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 4 January 1908, page 25

BIG FIRE AT HINDMARSH.



SCENE OF THE RUINS.



AS SEEN FROM THE EAST SIDE OF BUILDINGS.



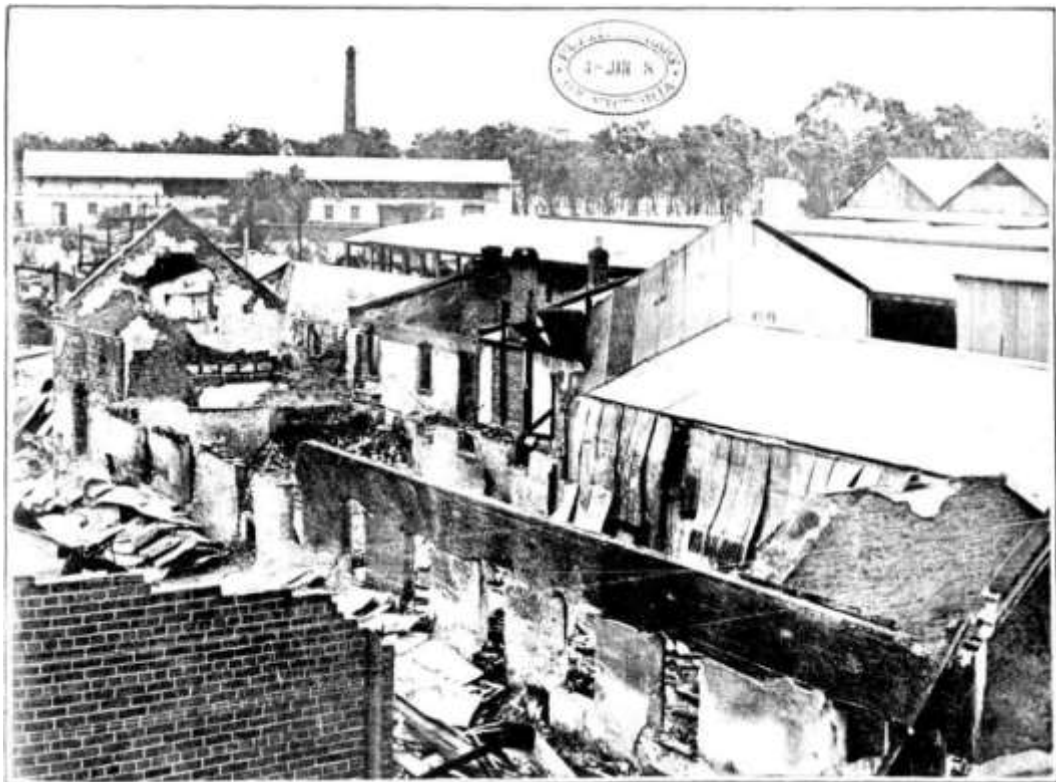
THE RUINS FROM THE FRONT.

Photo. W. S. Smith

Australasian (Melbourne, Vic. : 1864 - 1946), Saturday 4 January 1908, page 27



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE RUINS FROM ADAMS-STREET.



BURFORD'S OFFICE, AND MITCHELL'S WOOL STORES.

THE GREAT FIRE AT HINDMARSH (TWO MILES FROM ADELAIDE) ON CHRISTMAS MORN,
COVERING AN AREA OF FIVE ACRES: DAMAGES ESTIMATED AT £50,000. (H. Krischock, photo)

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 25 February 1908, page 1

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

Mr. J. M. Reid has forwarded a letter to the Mayor of Hindmarsh, in reply to a report from Chief Officer Duncan, of the local volunteer fire brigade. After dealing with the officer's objections to bringing the local system under the metropolitan brigade, Mr. Reid says, regarding the recent fire at Messrs. Burford & Sons':—"It certainly was no criterion as to what might have been done if an early call had been extended to the city. Promptness in reaching a fire is the essence of fire fighting, but the Adelaide brigade received no word of this fire for one hour and 25 minutes after the volunteer brigade turned out, and it certainly appears that had the metropolitan brigade received an earlier call, a break might have been effected in the fire zone, bad as was the water supply." Mr. Reid makes an earnest plea for concerted action with the metropolitan station and the supersession of the volunteer brigade by permanent men.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 30 November 1908, page 8

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade received another call out at 9.30 on Saturday, morning, to which they responded. As the glass was not broken at the alarm in West-street it is thought that the men working at the telephone wires on the Port-road were the cause of the call out.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 3 December 1908, page 10

GENERAL NEWS

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade has had a busy time this week. On Monday the firemen were called out to two small fires, that were extinguished before their arrival. They were called out on Tuesday evening at 8.10 and at 11 o'clock, in the opinion of some people, unnecessarily, and on Wednesday evening at 7.10 a call brought the brigade to the fire alarm in West-Street, when the glass was found to be intact. Complaints have previously been made that some of the false alarms have been caused by men working on the telegraph and telephone lines on the Port-road, but on Wednesday evening no one was working on the lines, and there was no wind to interfere with the wires. The false alarms not only inconvenience the firemen, but the local police have to turn out, and many of the towns-people become disturbed by the sounding of the house at the gas works.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 15 December 1908, page 7

BIG FIRE AT HINDMARSH

A BARK MILL DESTROYED.

ESTIMATED DAMAGE £9,000.

Nearly 12 months ago a fire broke out at the Apollo Works, Adam-street, Hindmarsh, owned by Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons, and it was one of the largest that has ever taken place in

the State. It occurred early on Christmas morning, and the damage done amounted to several thousand pounds. Close upon the festive season again another disastrous outbreak occurred on Monday night, when the bark mill of Messrs. John Reid & Sons was totally destroyed. The premises are situated in Manton-street. Mr. J. M. Reid has just returned from a tour of the world, and it was a sore blow to him when he saw the mill, in which he took such a pride, and which contained the most up-to-date machinery, some of which had only been erected this bark season, levelled to the ground. This branch of the business of the firm has made rapid strides of recent years, and just at the height of its development the premises in which it was conducted have been destroyed, and for the time being there must be a set-back, with consequent loss of employment to many workmen. Mr. Reid feels the loss keenly, and, as he said last night, "although I am naturally, I think, of a philosophic temperament, this is an unfortunate sequel to a pleasant tour of the world. However, it cannot be helped, and we will do our best to restore our business in this particular line as soon as we can."

Scene at the Fire.

Long before the hooter was sounded at the gasworks the fire had made good headway, and flames shot up through the galvanized-iron roofing, making the immediate vicinity almost as light as day. By the time the Hindmarsh Brigade arrived on the scene, which it did promptly, the interior of the building was a mass of fire, which raged fiercely around the machinery in the centre of the shed, and crackled among the large stack of dry bark at the eastern end.

Combustion was not rapid at the western end, where tons of ground bark were piled ready for market. Soon after the advent of the Metropolitan Brigade, which arrived at a quarter to 11, it was seen that gutting was inevitable. Galvanized sheets from the rear end and the southern side of the building fell one by one, the roof collapsed, and all was submerged in a furnace of glowing red, from which sparks shot up intermittently amongst the dense smoke vapors. The latter, rose-colored from the red-hot glow within, must have been visible for many miles. Within an hour after the first alarm had been given at 10.5 all that remained of a fine manufactory was a ruined building and the spoiled remnants of a valuable stock. Even before the arrival of the Hindmarsh brigade a few people had assembled, and their numbers were so quickly augmented that the surrounding streets were thickly thronged, and police aid had to be requisitioned to enable the firemen to do their duty efficiently.

Fighting the Flames

The full strength of the volunteer brigade—18 men, with Chief Officer Duncan in command—answered the call to the fire and upon arrival at the building found the flames above the roof. So rapidly had they spread inside the building that the firemen found the front iron wall red hot. Quickly two lines of hose were affixed to hydrants at the back of the premises, and two more were worked from the front to pour water on the smouldering and smoking piles of bags of ground bark through a doorway, an opening in which had to be forced with a crowbar. It was quickly seen that the conflagration had obtained so firm a hold, and had spread so fast through the combustible stock, that the premises were doomed. The brigade, although their task of saving the place was hopeless, worked like Trojans, and at a quarter to 11, when the Metropolitan Brigade dashed up with an engine, and two reels, the fire was under control, and all danger of its spreading had been averted. The combined forces went to work with renewed vigor, for the interior of the building at the east end was still a glowing furnace, and by midnight the outbreak was practically

extinguished, although, smouldering embers and glowing debris still required careful watching.

Situation of the Building.

The building is situated within a couple of hundred yards of the River Torrens, and has a frontage 100ft. to Manton-street. It is 140 ft. deep by 100 ft. wide. The height to the guttering was 30 ft. The materials used in construction were mainly jarrah timber and galvanized iron. About the centre of the building the machinery was placed, and included a gas engine of about 50 h.p., and a milling plant of the latest design. The internal arrangements were so designed as to allow of the bark being unloaded at the east, or rear end of the shed, whence it was conveyed to the machinery with a minimum of hand-ling. When ground and bagged it was passed towards the front for storage. At the back of the building are the Church of Christ and the residences of Mr. C. H. Parsons and the Rev. P. Watson. Fortunately none of these places were put in jeopardy by the outbreak, for the night was calm and the flames shot straight upward.

The Water Pressure. At the fire at the Apollo Works last Christmas the efforts of the city and local fire brigades were greatly hampered owing to the insufficient water pressure. In fact little could be done to fight the fire until the hose was attached to a 10-in. main in Milner-street, about a quarter of a mile away. The Hindmarsh Council and factory proprietors waited on the Commissioner of Public Works and asked for an increase of water pressure and larger mains. At the local town council meeting on Monday evening a letter was received from the Government on the subject. It referred to the water pressure in Adam-street, and advised that a larger main, had been laid in John street, and other mains had been cleaned and the water pressure improved. It was added that the Government could not approve of any additional expenditure at present.

Chief-Officer Duncan, in his annual report dealing with this matter, said:—"It was pointed out that in this locality there are several of the largest manufactories in South Australia, and for a limited area one of the largest fire risks, and this is being supplied with water from a 4-in. main. This, from a fire protection point, is a very serious matter. The Commissioner admitted the reasonableness of the request, and promised that something should be done to improve the supply. Since then a 6-in. main has been put down in John-street, and thence a 4-in. main along Market-place."

Alderman Blight urged the necessity of having a larger main in Market-place. At his tannery there was very little pressure. There was no possibility of coping with a fire with the present water supply. It was their duty, he said, to see that a larger main was laid in Market-place. At present a four-inch main supplied the factories and people.

Alderman Brown said it was monstrous that the desired pressure was not given owing to the cheeseparing policy of the Government. Alderman King said they wanted a six-inch main up Market-place to give a good pressure for the convenience of the factories. Councillor Martin said, the pressure had not been improved. The Mayor said he had received complaints from manufacturers on the subject, and he felt it was the duty of the council to agitate for an improvement. It was decided to take further action in the matter.

Chief Officer Duncan, in charge of the local fire brigade, said last night there was a good pressure of water, and his men had no difficulty in subduing the flames. He had them well

under before the arrival of the metropolitan brigade. A four-inch main runs along Manton-street.

Mr. J. M. Reid's Statement.

"I went down by the 8 o'clock train to-night to Woodville to see Mr. James Reid," said the head of the firm, "and I returned to the city by the 9.22 train, and while proceeding to my home in North Adelaide I noticed an unusual illumination at Hindmarsh. That was soon after 10 o'clock. I went to Hindmarsh at once, and found the bark mill alight. I have always cautioned the men to exercise the greatest care inside the premises so as to avoid the possibility of a fire. No smoking is allowed, and, in fact, nothing was left undone to minimise the possibility of an outbreak in a building which contained so much inflammable material. I have not the slightest idea as to the origin of the fire; I cannot understand it. For some time I have advocated the establishment of a permanent fire brigade at Hindmarsh, and the matter had been discussed at the Hindmarsh Corporation meetings; in fact, a deputation of manufacturers waited upon the council and urged that this should be done. Though the late Superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade discussed the question with the council that body deemed it more prudent to have volunteers, who took an interest in their work, and who were enthusiastic. I estimate my loss at about £9,000."

The Manager Interviewed.

Mr. E. H. Glastonbury, the manager of the tannery, said he had had charge of the place for the last 18 months. Work on the premises was discontinued at 7 o'clock on Monday evening, and before the staff of 20 men employed by the firm left for their homes the usual precautions were taken to see that nothing of a dangerous nature was left lying about. Mr. Glastonbury was not there at knock-off time, having gone to his home earlier in the evening, but he was assured that everything was safe, and did not trouble to visit the premises. The only source from which danger was to be feared was the gas supply, which connects with the 50-h.p. engine that drives the bark-milling plant, and this, he was informed, had been cut off at the main. Mr. Glastonbury said he had no idea of the quantity of bark on the premises. It was some weeks since stock had been taken. From appearances, however, there must have been nearly 200 tons of bark, ground and in the rough, on the premises.

It was Mr. A. Oatway, whose back premises reach within about 75 yards of the eastern side of the mill, who gave the alarm. The premises are covered by insurance.

1909

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 28 January 1909, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE CONCERT.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade recently reported to the local town council that in consequence of the rough handling they received at Burford's fire on Christmas Day, 1907, their uniforms were in a bad state. The Hindmarsh Amateur Musical and Dramatic Society had a meeting on Monday evening, and has generously offered to give a dramatic entertainment in the local town hall, in March, the proceeds of which will go to replenish the fire brigade's exchequer.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 6 April 1909, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

About 12 months ago, after the disastrous fire at W. H. Burford & Co.'s Apollo works, a large deputation waited upon the Hindmarsh Council with a request that a permanent fire brigade should be established, and a scheme was propounded whereby the town could be brought under the supervision of the Metropolitan Brigade and a steamer provided. Owing principally to the cost of the proposed change the council did not countenance it. Then and subsequently, when the local brigade was said to be inefficient, Councillors stoutly defended the volunteers, and passed motions of confidence in the men. It was contended that, given an adequate water supply, the men could cope with any out-break which might occur in the town. On Monday evening, however, there was significance in the fact that the Fire Underwriters' Association, which has regularly subscribed toward the upkeep of the brigade, forwarded a cheque for £50, being its subscription to September last, and stated that the insurance companies had definitely decided to withdraw their financial support.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 29 April 1909, page 1

SMALL FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

At 8.40 a.m. on Thursday the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was called to a fire at the tannery of Messrs. W. Foster & Co., Manton-street, Hindmarsh. About 20 gallons of benzine, contained in two zinc-lined vessels in a shed, 30 ft. away from any other building, had caught alight, and this and the shed were totally destroyed. The shed and contents were covered by insurance. The value of the benzine, &c., with the shed, was about £20. The fire brigade quickly turned out, but their services were not required. It is not definitely known how the fire originated.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Saturday 31 July 1909, page 1

FALSE ALARM OF FIRE.

The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was called out at 5.50 a.m. on Saturday, but on arriving at Thomas-street, North Croydon, it was found that the glass of the alarm was not broken. The electric system was out of order, as the shutter at the brigade station did not fall, but that at the South Australian Gasworks did.

1910

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1910.

Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade Station number 1, Jas Duncan superintendent with Roy Langman as secretary.

Glanton Street North side, from Albermarle Street, D. C. Duncan as Superintendent of the fire brigade

Gibson Street South side, corner of Eight Street (now known as Emu Park, 2022) with the H.V.F.B Fire Reel number 2.



Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 8 February 1910, page 1

FIRE IN BOWDEN STATION.

The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade received a call early on Tuesday morning to a fire in the vicinity of the Bowden Station. Upon arrival it was found that a quantity of wood was ablaze in the station yard. The fire was speedily extinguished, and the damage was small.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 21 February 1910, page 1

FALSE FIRE ALARM.

The hooter at the Brompton Gas Works sounded the alarm of fire at 9.35 a.m. on Monday, and two telephone shutters dropped at the central station of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade. The firemen went to Richard-street, the first alarm indicated; but finding no one there, and no sign of a fire, made for the alarm at North Croydon, with equally unsatisfactory results.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 25 February 1910, page 2

FIRE AT BROMPTON.

On Friday morning, at 2.50, the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call from the West street, Brompton, signal. Simultaneously the Gasworks hooter sounded, and the brigade was out by about the time the hooter had finished its doleful tune. In journeying towards the signal a huge volume of flame and smoke was observed in a northerly direction. Upon arrival it was discovered that a large stack of wood stored in one of Messrs. J. Hallett and Sons' brickyards, near the Metropolitan Brick Company's works, had caught alight. The wood was uncomfortably close to the kiln attachments and the sheds, all of which were in immediate danger. The firemen set to work with a will and the fire was soon extinguished. The brigade turned out in good force, and deserve credit for their prompt arrival at such an early hour.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 15 March 1910, page 11

FIRE AT HINDMARSH,

A fire occurred on Monday evening on the premises of Mr. C. R. Turner, Port road, Brompton, and a large galvanized iron shed 50 ft. by 26 ft. and 20 ft. high, used as a wood and chaff mill, with contents, including a chaffcutter, 8-horse gas engine, and hay of the

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11 December 2024

value of £30, were destroyed. The origin of the fire is not known. It was discovered about 7 o'clock, and the local brigade soon arrived, but the flames had a firm hold. Mr. C R. Turner had been at work in the chaff mill during the afternoon, and left at 4.30 p.m., and his father was on the premises about an hour later. Everything was right when both men left. The estimated loss is from £200 to £250. The building and plant are insured in the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Company for £180.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 21 March 1910, page 8

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

From Pastor Ira Adina Paternoster, Robert Street Church of Christ. Hindmarsh.—"I wish to speak a word of appreciation through The Register regarding the work of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. It is a fact that gratuitous service is rarely ever appreciated. The servant who works for nothing has, as least in the eyes of some, a sinister motive for his actions. The hon. treasurer of a charity fund is 'always making money at the job,' or else does not do his work well. The Hindmarsh Brigade, I believe, come in for more than its share of criticism. Last Monday evening a fire broke out in a building on the Port road. I heard the hooter blow, and instantly looked at my watch. It was then just 7.3 p.m. I could see the fire from my front door; but, like most people of a curious disposition, sought a closer view. By the time I arrived the men had one of the hand reels ready for action, and the horse reel had arrived from the station. Before the hose from the horse reel was fixed, however, water was being played on to the fire from the hand reel. I saw the first drop of water put on the fire, and, on looking at my watch, found it was just over four minutes from the time the first sound of the hooter was heard. The brigade should be congratulated on its remarkable promptness and general efficiency in confining the fire to the building in which it started. When it is remembered that a fairly strong wind was blowing in the direction of other buildings, only a few yards away, it is proof enough of the efficiency of the brigade. The town of Hindmarsh is to be congratulated on having as citizens men who at the risk of life, are willing to make sacrifices, as these men do, to lighten the taxes of the people and protect property against fire, and that the individual who adversely criticises the brigade ought to be disfranchised, at least so far as the town is concerned."

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 29 March 1910, page 9

CHURCH PARADE.

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On Sunday morning the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade held a church parade, and attended Brompton Methodist Church. The members turned out in good force, under the leadership of Superintendent Duncan. The Rev. W. A. Langsford, who officiated, extended a hearty welcome to Superintendent Duncan and the men of the brigade. Recently he had been taking more than ordinary notice of the movements of the brigade, and, while studying its history and its objects, he had come to the conclusion that the inhabitants of Hindmarsh were under a deep debt of gratitude to a noble and self-sacrificing body of men. The formal opening of the brigade took place on February 10, 1885, just 25 years ago. This, therefore, was the year of its semi-jubilee, and the success of its efforts during that period was deserving the greatest praise. They could trace the history of fire brigades back before the Christian era; and, although in those days their powers were limited and the appliances for combating a fire were then and for long years afterwards of a most primitive character, it

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was evident that fire uncontrolled had ever been a source of dread to the people. In the present times they realized the value of the efforts and assistance of brave men, who were ready to risk their own health and even life in order to prevent or check the ravages of fire. Hindmarsh had been most fortunate, for during the quarter of a century that the local brigade had been in existence there had been no loss of life as the actual result of fighting a fire. Some of the members of the brigade had suffered in different ways, but it was a matter for general congratulation that they had been providentially protected. His prayer would be that they might continue to enjoy immunity from accident or loss, and that they would be long spared to continue to fulfil their patriotic duties. A body of men banded together as they were for the good of the community might be subject to criticism no matter how pure and disinterested their motives might be. If this criticism were fair and intended to assist in bringing about better and more satisfactory results it would be welcomed and received in a proper spirit. Unfortunately, however, there were some whose criticisms were un-kind, untrue, unjust, and unworthy of those who uttered them. The unvarying success of the brigade was a most emphatic answer to such criticism, and while a few might cavill the great body of their fellow-citizens would regard the firemen with gratitude and pardonable pride. The brigade was working with the object of preserving life and property. They realized the preciousness and the great value of human life, and were prepared to risk and even sacrifice their own lives in the attempt to save the lives of others. The men, who in the attempt to save their fellows from a doomed ship, went in and faced all weathers to gain their end, were not engaged in a more laudable and honourable calling than were the firemen when they were trying to save the occupiers of a burning building. Apart from that, they knew that to prevent the destruction of property they were rendering true service, not only to the owners of that property, but to humanity at large. He had had experience of the want of a fire brigade; he had lived in country towns where there were no brigades, and when fires broke out they had no skilled firefighters, and no suitable appliances for coping with the situation. But with the modern appliances at their command they were in a position to meet any ordinary emergency. Hindmarsh wanted a better water supply in parts, and when that was obtained the brigade would be in a better position to combat the fiery element. This was absolutely necessary. The fact that the services of the brigade were given in a purely voluntary spirit to the town was an unspeakable credit, and the possession of such a trained body of skilled men was an asset of which any town could be proud. He hoped that not only would the brigade continue worthy to receive the moral support of their fellow-citizens, but that whenever necessary they would receive that financial support which was necessary to keep their machinery in a state of efficiency, and enable them to secure the most up-to-date apparatus to assist them in their work. Anthems were rendered by the choir, under the direction of Mr. T. J. Bishop.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 29 March 1910, page 4

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

In a sermon delivered at the Brompton Methodist Church on Sunday last the Rev. W. A. Langsford paid a tribute to the members of the local volunteer fire brigade. This fine body of men were carrying on their work purely for the love of it and in the interests of their town, and did not receive payment of any description. For close upon 25 years the brigade had been in existence, and during that time had done grand work in saving life and property. Many of them had received injuries as a result of their endeavors to prevent the spread of fire, but in every case splendid bravery had been shown, and the people of Hindmarsh were

proud of their noble band of fire fighters. At present Superintendent Duncan had a splendid body of men under his charge, and at no time in its history was the brigade in a more efficient state than at present. The speaker went on to say that the brigade deserved well at the hands of the people of Hindmarsh, and they should receive more support than they received at present. There was a large congregation present, and as the brigade mustered in full force a great deal of good should result from the parade and eloquent sermon.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 18 April 1910, page 1

THE HINDMARSH FIRE.

It has been decided not to hold an inquest on the fire which occurred at the Adelaide Crystal Ice Company's works. West Thebarton, on Saturday evening.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 14 May 1910, page 18

CITY FIRE BRIGADE.

EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES.

(By our Special Reporter.)

A telegram from Perth (W.A.) in "The Advertiser" on Tuesday last, conveyed information that the Fire Brigade of that town had secured a turbine motor fire engine of the latest type, with a capacity of 400 gallons a minute and a speed of any-thing up to 60 miles an hour. This is probably the fastest thing in fire engines in the Commonwealth—if it has this speed. But in the matter of capacity it is not superior to the motor engine which, for some time has been part of the equipment of the Adelaide brigade. This engine, of the Merryweather make, is just as nearly up-to-date as it is possible to be, and is sufficient for the performance of all the work it is likely to be called upon to per-form in connection with an outbreak of fire in the city. One of the advantages possessed by the motor engine over the old horse-drawn plant is the speed with which it can be put on the street. The record for a turn-out, under the old system, is held by the Adelaide Brigade, which, on the occasion of a test, timed by various watches, was on the way to the scene of the supposed conflagration in four seconds, with every detail of the fire-fighting equipment on the engine and every man of the team in his place. This was a show test but the brigade is expected to be on the road within a minute of receiving a call, and if there is no untoward happening in harnessing the horses or opening the doors of the building it is rarely that the turn-out takes longer.

One of the most interesting items in a visit to a fire-station is the story of fast "turnouts" which either the fireman on duty or one of the visiting party may have to tell in fitting surroundings. The smartest turnouts on any record was that of an eastern brigade on the occasion of the visit of some distinguished Americans to the State. At a late hour in the evening of a very enjoyable day, one of the visitors turned the conversation in the direction of the possible burning of a city so closely built as that in which he was then resident, and, knowing that one of those in the company was chief of the metropolitan brigade, he indulged in some mild "chaff" at the expense of the system, which, he expressed the opinion was not as good as that with which he was familiar in the land of his birth, the great United States. "That is the place where the firemen get in some fast work," he said. "In New York City I've seen turnouts so smart that one could easily think the fire had been fixed up beforehand so as to give the brigade a chance to show its mettle." "We can get out pretty quickly here," ventured the firefighter. "Not as quickly as one of the best brigades in New

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11 December 2024

York, perhaps, but pretty smart all the same." The visitor was kindly in his patronage, and went so far as to admit that he had no doubt the local brigade would do its best, but it was not to be expected that it could go out as quickly as an American one, and so forth, and a good deal more of the same variety of talk, which was as pleasant hearing for the local man as would have been the news that the fire-station had been burned down. Taking advantage of an opportunity he went to the fire alarm in the street just outside the door of the establishment in which the entertainment was in progress, and un-locking the alarm with his private key, called up the station, "Turn out sharp," he ordered; "everything to come; big blaze at— — — cafe." Then he returned to the company and said to one of the critics of the system for which he was responsible "Come out and call up the brigade; we'll, give these fellows a surprise." The other was delighted at the chance to test the efficiency of the establishment, and came at once. "Break the glass," said the superintendent, and as he could hear the galloping of the horses in the near distance he jabbed his stick through the glass plate of the call. In less than two seconds one of the engines was on the spot and in five seconds there were two or three more; in 10 seconds the street was full of fire-fighting plant, and in 10 minutes there was a string of fire engine equipment representing the full strength of the city and suburban brigades. "Say," commented the American, "I give in; it beats the lot; it beats New York, and if I hadn't got out of the way that first engine would have run over me. Say, whereas your station? Up in the sky? seemed to me as if the first part of the machinery came down from heaven" When next morning he was taken to the station, a good 10 minutes' walk from the scene of the suppositional fire of the night before, he was one of the most astonished Americans in the whole breadth of Australia at the time. With the introduction of the motor engine the test is done away with; there is no possibility of any special smartness at a turnout now; the call is sent to the station, and the motor is out on the street simultaneously. The power is always on and if the men are trained to proper efficiency, as are the men of the Adelaide brigade, there can be no question of time in the turn-out, it is coincident with the ringing of the bell, and the announcement of the locality of the fire. But it must be admitted that the old style fireman prefers the horse-hauled engine, and it may be some time before he will consider the motor as reliable as the older machine with which he has done such good work in saving property, and occasionally life, menaced by fire. Though the smartness of the motor in getting out leaves nothing to be desired by the firemen, who know that the first minute at a blaze may mean all the difference between effecting "a save" and losing the fight with the flames, there are still to be found firemen in the Metropolitan Brigades who, with a big job before them, such as the burning of a wharf with its kerosine stores and buildings all alight, would rely on the old steam engine as preferable to the new-fangled machine. It is not yet accepted by firemen generally that the motor-pumping gear is to be depended on to stand the test of a hard fight and long hours of steady plugging work. Experts are satisfied on this point, however, and the time is coming when the horse-team may have to stand aside for the motor, and the steamer will be voted as old-fashioned as the handpump.

In the city brigade there are over thirty smart and well-trained men, seasoned, athletic, and skilled in all the branches of the work, for which they have undergone special preparation. The plant, in addition to the motor engine, includes a fine steamer of the same capacity— about 400 gallons— and all the other appliances likely to be wanted immediately at an outbreak in the city limits. In the event of a call, all this plant, well-horsed and completely manned, could be, and would be, in the street in less than a hundred seconds. There is in view of the visitor to the station, on any day, about half the horse strength of the

establishment; two greys which draw the engine are fine animals, trained to the perfection of the circus horse, which responds to every motion of the hand and whip of the ringmaster. One of the greys, called by name, came to be shown, and appeared, as he no doubt was, proud of the attention bestowed, and the compliments passed on his shape and carriage. In another box were two fine animals used in running the curricle with the ladders and hooks and salvage implements. Both have inherited thoroughbred blood, one from The Arab and the other from Hamlet, and, in view of their quality, one is forced to admit that "a bit of blood" in a horse to be used for very heavy work is by no means out of place. Either of these horses could pull a ton on the level, and either of them could cover ten miles inside the hour if put to the test. What time they would take to go a mile with the engine behind them one may not venture to suggest. In such a case all would depend on the nerve of the driver and the state of traffic in the streets.

Though the quarters of the brigade are reasonably comfortable, they are being made more so. A gymnasium is to be erected, and room provided for the exercise which is essential to the preservation of condition. Better arrangements are to be made for the disposition of plant which, owing to lack of room in the main hall of the building, is bestowed out of what may be termed the immediate fighting line. The tower is to be taken down, and some other improvements are to be effected, and when the alterations are completed the Adelaide station will be one of the finest and best-equipped of the fire-fighting establishments of the Commonwealth. As the branch stations in the leading suburbs are in effect duplicates of the head station and working under the same efficient system, the metropolitan district is well served in this direction.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 26 May 1910, page 2

SMALL FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

The fire alarm at the Gas Works, Brompton, sounded on Tuesday evening at 8.30. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade were smartly on the scene, which proved to be in a detached cottage in Fourth street, Bowden, occupied by Mrs. Mossop. Owing to the prompt action of neighbors the services of the brigade were not required. A pair of curtains and other small articles in a bedroom were destroyed.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 21 June 1910, page 2

FIRE AT TORRENSIDE.

KITCHEN'S SOAP FACTORY DAMAGED.

Shortly after midnight a fire broke out in the large soap and candle works of J. Kitchen & Sons and Marsh Limited, at Torrenside. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, although the district is not within its sphere of operations, hurried to the scene under charge of Superintendent Duncan, and was so prompt and successful that the flames were mastered within a quarter of an hour. In order to get to the building as quickly as possible, the firemen dragged a reel and hose over the tramway bridge, which is near the building. When the brigade reached the locality the flames were leaping high, and there was every prospect of a big conflagration in close proximity to large stores of inflammable material, of the character usually found in soap and candle works. The fire started in the section where fire kindlers are manufactured, and the brigade set to work to prevent the flames from reaching the main building, where considerable stocks are stored. In about a quarter of an hour all danger

of a further spread had been averted, and the fire had been confined to a building measuring about 70 ft. by 20 ft. A large quantity of kindlers, cocoanut oil, and other materials was destroyed by the flames. Fortunately the brigade prevented the flames from reaching the boilers, and none of the machinery appeared, from a casual observation, to have been damaged. The damage so far as could be ascertained when we went to press was estimated at a few hundred pounds.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 22 June 1910, page 8

THE TORRENSIDE FIRE

GOOD WORK BY THE BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade, directed by Mr. J. Duncan, were responsible for a fine piece of work at the fire which occurred on the premises of Kitchen and Sons & Marsh, Limited, soap and candle manufacturers, early on Tuesday morning. They received the call from the Richard street alarm at 10 minutes past midnight, and 13 of them all told got the hoses to the scene with the help of handreels only. The fire had a firm hold on a couple of lean-to structures at the rear of the main premises, and on their contents, which consisted of a quantity of resinous kindlers and casks of cocoanut oil. The blaze that these inflammable materials were capable of producing may well be imagined. The spectacle was really a brilliant one until the volunteer men had shaken out their hoses. There was a good pressure of water, and first attention was given to cutting off the flames from the main building, separated only a few feet from the seat of the outbreak. A strong wind was blowing in a dangerous direction, but presently it changed, and in 20 minutes the probability of the fire spreading was at an end. It was a remarkably good "save." Mr. Duncan and his men continued to fight the flames until 4 a.m., and rain fell unceasingly, and drenched them to the skin. Many sheets of galvanised iron fell across the burning material, and these had to be shifted before the fire could be stamped out. The work of the brigade is all the more creditable in view of the fact that the location of the conflagration is outside the bounds of the Hindmarsh district. The storeroom, the kindler room, and the manufactured contents were completely destroyed, besides a lot of mallee roots used for feeding a couple of furnaces that practically escaped damage. Workmen were engaged in these apartments until 5.30 on the previous evening, and the manager (Mr. C. A. Kerr), who was aroused out of bed when the fire was in progress, is unable to state the cause of it. The damage is estimated at £300, an amount which is covered by the Patriotic Insurance Company.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 22 June 1910, page 10

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

Writing of the work of the Hindmarsh volunteer fire brigade, our local correspondent says:— For a few years the Fire Underwriters' Association assisted the brigade with £50 per annum, but the subsidy has been discontinued, and all that now is relied on by way of support is £60 per annum from the Hindmarsh Corporation, together with private subscriptions. In these circumstances it is difficult to make any headway towards obtaining new plant and other requirements. Some time ago a valuable horse died, and owing to want of funds it has not been replaced. At present an animal that has served the brigade well for a number of years is knocked up, and unless it speedily re-covers, should a fire occur the hand reels will have to be used. That had to be done on Tuesday morning when the brigade was called out to a fire

at Messrs. Kitchen and Son and Marsh's soap and candle works on the bank of the Torrens at Southwark.

The last electric tramcar was proceeding along Manton-street about 12.5 a.m., and when near the bridge over the Torrens Mr. R. Cain saw the blaze at the factory. He rang up the brigade from the Richard street alarm. Superintendent J. Duncan and over a dozen firemen at once proceeded to the scene of the fire with hand reels and hose and soon had it under control, making a good save. The rain poured down, and the firemen were soon drenched to the skin, and worked on in that condition until 4 a.m. When it is remembered that these men have to be at their usual work at the starting time it is easily seen that they are self-sacrificing. As firemen they work without the hope of fee or reward. What they want is capital to keep up the plant. Applications for assistance have been made to fire insurance companies that have benefited through the good work done by the brigade in extinguishing fires before much damage has been done, but the replies have been to the effect that under existing circumstances financial assistance cannot be given. Good service was done at the Adelaide Crystal Iceworks fire at West Thebarton not long ago, and the damage was comparatively small owing to the effective work of the brigade, but the fire insurance company interested did not offer any pecuniary recompense. The brigade has done effective and gratuitous service in Thebarton on at least five occasions—at a dairy near the Squatters' Arms, at the Walkerville brewery, at the vinegar works, at the Adelaide Crystal Iceworks, and at Messrs. Kitchen & Son and Marsh's factory.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 19 August 1910, page 8

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

Residents of Hindmarsh are proud of their volunteer fire brigade, and opportunities are seldom missed by which funds may be raised to assist it. The brigade is maintained mainly by funds raised privately, and Superintendent Duncan and his able staff deserve well of the business firms and private people of the town. On Wednesday afternoon the Hindmarsh Early Closing Association arranged a fancy dress football match in aid of the brigade, and complete success rewarded their efforts. The teams represented the north and south sides of the Port road, the latter winning by a single point, the scores being 6 goals 11 behinds to 6 goals 10 behinds. The costumes of the players were funny in the extreme, and the antics cut during the afternoon caused roars of laughter. The net profit on the game amounted to £6 10/. Mr. E. W. McNiece was the secretary, and praise is due to him and the early closers for their fine effort.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 21 September 1910, page 4

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

Shortly after 5 o'clock on Monday morning the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call from Southwark, and Superintendent Duncan, with 14 firemen and appliances, were soon on the scene of action, which proved to be at the Bunyip Soap Works. An employe at Messrs. Kitchen, Sons, & Marsh, Limited, noticed smoke arising from a galvanised shed used for the purpose of fire-kindler making, detached from the main works, and promptly gave the alarm. The fire was under control when the firemen arrived, and their services were used to prevent a further outbreak. Owing to the inflammable nature of the contents of the building the brigade took every precaution to prevent a further outbreak. Damage to the sheds and contents amounted to about £25.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 4 October 1910, page 4

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

At a meeting of the Hindmarsh Corporation on Monday evening the Mayor (Mr. W. H. H. Dring) said that a week or two ago a deputation had waited on the Underwriters Association on account of the latter's determination to withdraw its donation to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. After considering the matter the association had decided to hold its decision. It seemed to him that it was just trying to force them to come under the Metropolitan Board. He hoped they would long remain as they were. The volunteer fire brigade had done yeoman service in the past, and efficiently dealt with all fires. He thought it a despicable act on the part of the association, and to show that the Hindmarsh Brigade had been singled out for prejudice he might mention that the Payneham Volunteer Brigade had received a donation. Cr. Park thought the Underwriters' Association was under the misapprehension that the equipment at Hindmarsh was insufficient. He had spoken to members of insurance companies, who were all in favour of the donation being given. It would serve the purpose perhaps if an influential deputation of townspeople waited on the association and pointed out the disability the brigade was working under, to the advantage of insurance companies. Cr. Hallett said it was a peculiar stand for the insurance companies to take, and at least a reason should have been given for withdrawing the donation. They had four or five reels posted at different places in the town, and all were thoroughly equipped. Cr. Murphy moved that a letter be sent to the Underwriters' Association, asking it to reconsider its decision. This was carried. The Mayor intimated that he would have a display, and invite the members of the Underwriters' Association to it.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 4 October 1910, page 5

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Mayor of Hindmarsh at the council meeting on Monday evening mentioned that the Underwriters' Association had refused to continue assistance to the local volunteer fire brigade. It was, he said, of great importance that the local brigade should be supported, and it was strange that the Underwriters' Association had declined to help. For about five years the association had given £50 per annum towards the brigade. He and Superintendent Duncan had waited on the secretary of the Underwriters' Association and had laid the matter of the necessity of financial help being given before him, and the reply that no further assistance could be rendered. He felt quite satisfied that the Underwriters' Association was "not giving the local fire brigade and the town a fair deal." The secretary of the association had promised to lay the matter before the association, and the reply was they could not accede to the request for a donation. It appeared that the Underwriters' Association would not be satisfied unless the local fire brigade was forced to come under the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board. He sincerely hoped that would not take place, as the local fire brigade had done splendid service and had acquitted themselves well as fire fighters in the past. The cost locally of the fire brigade was small, but should the town come under the Metropolitan Fire Brigades' Board the financial liability would be heavy, and there would not be a chance to withdraw. With the present equipment meritorious services had been given, and he thought it would be foolish to come under the Metropolitan Fire Brigades' Board. He thought it very despicable on the part of the Underwriters' Association not to give financial help, especially as managers of fire insurance companies had said they were willing to assist if allowed. It showed inconsistency of the Underwriters' Association, in giving a donation to

the Payneham volunteer fire brigade, while they refused assistance to the Hindmarsh volunteer brigade. It was only right that the ratepayers should be made aware of the position, and it ought to be known what the reason was that financial help had been refused after being given so long.

Councillor Park said the Underwriters' Association and fire insurance companies had been misled as to the equipment of the local fire brigade, and that it had been told them that it was not good. He had informed some of the companies' officers that the local fire brigade was well equipped, excepting that they had not a steamer, and that there were over 20 efficient firemen ready for any occasion when wanted. The local brigade protected the property of fire insurance companies, and for that reason alone the underwriters should give the assistance asked for. A strong body of local towns-men, who had some interest in the town should wait on the Underwriters' Association, and lay before them the facts of the case, and possibly they might then be moved to give the required help. The Mayor—They are too hard a set for that. Councillor Murphy asked if another request might be of some service. The mayor said he had thought of asking the Underwriters' Association to inspect the local fire brigade, when a fire demonstration could be given. Alderman Brown—It might strengthen our hands if employers of labor would assist. Councillor Hallett spoke of the good services rendered by the local brigade in saving property from destruction. The firemen required a steamer, and if they had one they would be more efficient, but the insurance companies would not assist by giving financial help for that purpose. They should do so for their own protection. If the fire brigade had a steamer and good water pressure it could not be surpassed. Councillor Murphy moved:— That we write to the Underwriters' Association asking them to reconsider the matter of granting a donation to the local fire brigade. He praised the local volunteer firemen, and contended that they should be helped.

The motion was carried, and the mayor said he would ask the Underwriters' Association to inspect the local fire brigade when the firemen would give an exhibition of what they could do.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 20 October 1910, page 7

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

At Monday's meeting of the Hindmarsh Council a letter was read from the Fire Underwriters' Association in reference to a request from the council that the association reconsider its decision to dis-continue contributing to the funds of the local volunteer fire brigade. The association stated that it was not able at present to reconsider the decision arrived at. The letter caused a good deal of disappointment, and was referred to the fire brigade committee for consideration, the committee to report to the next meeting of the council.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 15 November 1911, page 2

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

At 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to an outbreak at Messrs. John Reid & Sons' bark mills in Manton street. Supt. Duncan and 12 men were on the scene a few minutes after the alarm had been given. A shed 70 ft. x 60 ft. x 28 ft., used for the storage of bark, was blazing fiercely. A strong wind assisted the flames, but the brigade soon had them completely under control. A good deal of damage was done to the

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11 December 2024

bark, and a large stack of bags was entirely destroyed. The damage has been estimated at £1,000.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 24 November 1910, page 8

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

At the ratepayers' meeting held in the Hindmarsh Town Hall on Wednesday evening a strong feature was made in the reference to the local volunteer fire brigade. The mayor (Mr. W. H. H. Dring) said that he hoped the time was far distant when the local brigade would be forced to come under the control of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades' Board. They had a fine body of men, and a splendid equipment, which was a credit to the town. The refusal of the Underwriters' Association to renew the payment of the £50 subsidy was deplored by himself and the council. (Applause).

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 29 November 1910, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE PROTECTION.

Recently the Underwriters' Association informed the Hindmarsh Council that it had decided to withdraw its annual grant of £50 towards the maintenance of the local Volunteer Fire Brigade. The council then asked the members of the association to visit the brigade, and see for themselves the good work being done. A reply came thanking the council for the kind invitation, and concluding:— "In view of the refusal of the majority of our members to authorize a contribution being made to the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade we cannot but feel that no good can result from such a visit, although a display by your local volunteers would, we are sure, be most interesting." Cr. Murphy moved—"That this council expresses its utter disappointment at the action of the Underwriters' Association in their action towards the Hind-marsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and records its greatest confidence in the brigade as the best system of protection against the spread of fire in the town." He expressed the hope that the day was far distant when the local brigade would be brought under the control of the Metropolitan Board. Cr. Richardson seconded the motion. The volunteer men, he said, were equally as active as the metropolitan men, although they were considerably handicapped by not having sufficient appliances. If they were brought under the wing of the board it would mean that they would be put to a large amount of unnecessary expense. The motion was carried unanimously.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 1 December 1910, page 3

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The mayor (Mr. Dring) stated at Monday's meeting of the council that a letter had been sent inviting the Fire Underwriters' Association to visit and inspect the local brigade, but a reply had been received stating that as the majority of the members had refused to contribute no good end could be served by the visit. He said there was an undercurrent at work against the local brigade which had led the association to refuse a contribution. He trusted the residents of the town would take this matter up and endeavor to devise some means to give support to the local brigade.

Councillor Murphy moved the following resolution:—

That this council express its dissatisfaction at the action of the Fire Underwriters' Association in reference to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and that we have the greatest confidence in the brigade against the spread of fire in the town.

He spoke in high praise of the local men, and the council had full confidence in their ability. The council were of opinion that the service was the best the town could have, and they regretted that the Fire Brigades Board was trying to force the town to come under their ruling. He hoped the time was far distant when that state of affairs should exist.

Councillor Richardson supported, and said there was an undoubted undercurrent at work against the local brigade with a view to forcing them to come under the Fire Brigades Board, and if that came about it would mean great expense. He thought it would be better to subsidise the local brigade by making a rate, and they might be able to raise money enough to keep it going.

Councillor Wood supported, and suggested that as the underwriters and the insurance companies were opposed to the local brigade something might be done to introduce other insurances which would have the effect of checking the present system of insurance.

Alderman Brown thought they should ask the Government to support the local brigade, for if the Fire Brigades Board took control the cost would be from £400 to £500 per annum, and in fact the actual cost could not be ascertained.

Councillor Hallett could not understand the attitude of the Underwriters' Association, for they had praised the local brigade and had contributed £60 per annum, which was now withdrawn.

The motion was carried.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 8 December 1910, page 2

FIRE AT BOWDEN.

Shortly before 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday morning the hooter at the gasworks, Brompton, sounded an alarm of fire. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade quickly turned out and were soon at the scene of the trouble—a shed at the rear of Mr. J. Byar's premises in Thirteenth street, Bowden, had caught alight, and the woodwork was much burnt. Damage to the extent of about £25 was done, and the building was not insured. Some children had been playing in the vicinity of the shed, and it is thought that in some manner they set the place alight. Captain Wakefield was in charge of the brigade.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Saturday 24 December 1910, page 8

SOCIAL TO FIRE BRIGADE OFFICERS

The members of the Hindmarsh volunteer fire brigade held a social evening in the head station on Thursday. The hon. treasurer (Mr. G. J. Plenty) occupied the chair and there was a large attendance of firemen and friends. Presentations were made to Superintendent Duncan and Captain Wakefield, whose healths were drunk with musical honors. Speakers referred to the good work of the brigade and spoke in high terms of the officers honored. A committee of which Mr. C. H. Rosenhain was secretary, had the arrangements in hand, and a pleasant evening was spent. Messrs. Hocking, Miller, Battersby, Smith, Harding, Leaney, and Lonnen contributed to the harmony of the evening.

1911

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 25 January 1911, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The report of the work of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade for the past year, which has just been issued, shows that the brigade has been both active and useful. The total number of calls received was 17. Of these six were caused through telephone wires coming into contact or unaccountable causes, and one call only was malicious which proves that the work is appreciated in the town. Eleven were calls to actual fires, three of which resulted in serious damage. The brigade also attended two serious fires out of its district. The actual calls to fires showed a decrease of seven on the previous year. The average attendance at fires by members of the brigade was 13, and at weekly drills and practices 14. The Fire Underwriters' Association had decided to withdraw its financial support of the brigade. No definite reason had been given for this action. The Secretary (Mr. R. W. Langman) retired from office at the end of the year on account of having left the district. The brigade tendered its best thanks to the Gas Company and its manager (Mr. W. Ray) for having allowed the steam whistle at the Brompton works to be blown in case of fire.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 26 January 1911, page 8

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

A meeting of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was held on Wednesday evening at the fire station. Superintendent J. Duncan presided. The resignation of Mr. R. W. Langman as secretary of the brigade was read. The reason was his removal from the district. It was accepted with regret, and it was decided to thank Mr. Langman for his five years' honorary services. Mr. C. H. Rosenhein was elected to fill the vacancy. It was stated in the report that during the year there had been seventeen calls, and eleven of these were to actual fires, three of which resulted in serious damage, and two other fires were out of Hindmarsh. There was a decrease of seven on the previous year. The average attendance of firemen at fires was thirteen, and at weekly drills fourteen. It was regretted that the South Australian Underwriters' Association had decided not to assist the brigade. The discipline and efficiency of the brigade well maintained, and the plant was in good order.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 17 February 1911, page 5

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade held a social on Wednesday evening at the central fire station, when framed certificates were presented for five years' service to Mr. R. W. Langman (secretary for that period). Apparatus-officer P. C. Hocking, Fireman A. A. Miller, A. J. Battersby, A. J. Harley, and D. L. Davis. The last named has been a member of the brigade seven years. Amongst the visitors were Captain Webb and Mr. V. J. Walsh (secretary, of the Payneham Volunteer Fire Brigade). Superintendent J. Duncan presided. "The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade," was proposed by Mr. O. O. Ohlson, ex-secretary of the Kalgoorlie Fire Brigade, who said the brigade had well earned the name of being one of the best, and should be allowed to continue, but there were indications that the time would come when their work would end. Superintendent Duncan responded. "The visitors" was proposed by Fireman Smith. Mr. O. O. Ohlson said some of the country districts paid too much for their fire brigades. There were enough volunteer fire brigades in this State to form an association.

Captain Webb endorsed the remarks of the previous speaker. In handing the certificates to the firemen the superintendent complimented them on their loyalty, obedience, and readiness at all times to turn out and do their duty. He thanked Mr. R. W. Langman for his services as secretary. The brigade were sorry to lose him, but were glad that he had improved his position. In replying, Mr. Langman said the brigade would be well served by his successor in office, Mr. C. H. Rosenhein. Songs were contributed by Apparatus-officer P. C. Hocking, Fireman Battersby, and a duet by Firemen A. A. Miller and Lonnen.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Saturday 8 April 1911, page 10

A HINDMARSH FIRE.

GOOD WORK BY BRIGADE.

At 3.40 a.m. yesterday the watchman employed at Messrs. W. H. Burford and Sons' Apollo soapworks, Hindmarsh, discovered that a fire had broken out in a building used for the manufacture of fire kindlers. With promptitude he alarmed the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and some 15 members under Superintendent Duncan made a most creditable turnout, arriving on the scene of the fire and running out a couple of lengths of hose in fine style. The flames, fed by the highly inflammable material in the building, attained a great height, and in the course of a very short time from the commencement of the outbreak they had got a secure hold.

The brigade, however worked to such good effect that the fire was very quickly got under control and prevented from spreading to the more extensive and more important parts of the works. The kindling house contained a good stock of kindlers and machinery used in their manufacture, and this was practically destroyed. The brigades work was rendered the less difficult by reason of the fact that the building was not directly connected with the main buildings. The damage done is not very extensive, and it is fully covered with the Yorkshire Insurance Company. The manager states that no employees will be thrown out of work in consequence of the fire.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 13 April 1911, page 8

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

A meeting of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was held on Wednesday evening at the central station. Superintendent J. Duncan reported that a fire had occurred at the Apollo works, Adam-street, Hindmarsh, early on Friday morning, and that the men turned out smartly, and it was quickly extinguished, although it had a good hold of the kindler-room. The brigade did not always get the thanks due to them; in fact sometimes tardy recognition had been given, but Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons were so well satisfied with the work done at the recent fire that they had sent a cheque for £15 for the brigade, and £10 for distribution amongst the firemen—£25 in all. He had received the following letter from Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons:—"We desire to show our appreciation of your brigade's promptness and efforts in connection with our fire in the fire kindler-room on the 7th inst., and ask you to please accept our cheque for £15 towards the brigade with our thanks." In another letter there was enclosed a cheque for £10 for the firemen. It was decided to thank Messrs. Burford & Sons. It was resolved to send a letter of sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. Henry Hunwick.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 26 July 1911, page 4

FIRE AT HINDMARSH

WORKSHOP DESTROYED.

At 5.30 on Tuesday morning the Gas Works fire hooter at Brompton sounded an alarm of fire, and the local volunteer fire brigade made a quick turnout. A big blaze was noticed in the vicinity of West Hindmarsh, and on investigation the fire was found to be situated in a wood and galvanised iron shed at the rear of a dwelling house in Glanton street, West Hindmarsh. The premises were used as a workshop by Mr. J. H. Humphreys as a manufacturer of mantel-pieces, and was well stocked with seasoned timber and a lot of varnish and other inflammable matter. The firemen, under Superintendent Duncan, put in some capital work, and mainly through their efforts a dwelling house close by was saved from the flames. The contents of the shop, comprising timber, paint varnish, and oils, as well as a valuable Crossley gas engine, were totally destroyed. The stock was valued at £250 and the building at £100; and the insurances are £250. Mr. Humphreys will be a considerable loser as a result of the conflagration.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 10 August 1911, page 4

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

A number of members of the St. Peters company of British Boy Scouts, accompanied by the British Girls' Nursing Class and friends, paid a visit to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Station on Wednesday evening. The boys were in charge of Scoutmaster W. H. Clarke, while Commissioner J. R. Coory, the secretary and manager (Mr. A. W. Fisk), Scoutmaster Rosenhain, and Lieut. Rosenhain were also present. Commissioner Coory was in charge of the young ladies. The visitors were met and welcomed by Supt. Duncan, and the secretary (Mr. C. H. Rosenhain). A short demonstration of practical work was given. A musical programme and refreshments were followed by a dance.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 30 October 1911, page 4

CASUALTIES.

FIRE CALLS.

With the thermometer registering over 95 in the shade on Sunday, people not unnaturally thought of fires. At about 9 o'clock on Sunday evening the Brompton Gasworks hooter sounded the fire alarm. Superintendent Duncan and other members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade turned out promptly, and it was found that some old rubbish in Messrs. J. Hallet and Son's brickyard, in John street, Hindmarsh, had become ignited. Little damage was done. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 1 November 1911, page 12

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The annual report of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was presented at the meeting of the local town council on Monday evening. Chief-officer Duncan stated that there had been 16 calls. Five were due to telephone wires coming into contact, one was a malicious false alarm, and ten were to actual fires, of which three resulted in serious damage. There was a decrease of one call in those of the previous year. The average attendance at fires by members of the brigade was 13, and at weekly drills and parades 16. A good stop was made

at Messrs'. W. H. Burford & Son's Apollo works, in Adam-street, and the good work done by the brigade was appreciated with a gift of £25 by the firm—£15 towards the brigade fund and £10 for distribution between the men. The discipline and efficiency of the fire-men were good, and no member had been injured by accident. The total receipts were £200, inclusive of £55 private subscriptions and £60 from the council. The expenditure was £196.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 1 November 1911, page 4

HIDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

Superintendent J. Duncan, of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, has forwarded his report for the past year to the Mayor and members of the local town council. The report states that the total number of calls to fires and supposed fires was 16. Of these five were caused through telephone wires coming in contact or through other unaccountable causes. One was malicious, and 10 were calls to actual fires, of which three resulted in serious damage. One of the fires which proved serious occurred out of this district. The actual calls to fires showed a decrease of one compared with the previous year. The average attendance at fires by members of the brigade was 13, and at weekly drills and parades 16. At Miller's, on' March 26 a record save was made, but two days later the whole of the hay previously saved by the brigade was destroyed, evidently the work of an incendiary. A good stop was made at Burford's, for which the firm sent a letter of appreciation and a cheque for £25—£15 toward the funds of the brigade and £10 for distribution among the firemen. The discipline and efficiency of the brigade were still being maintained, and during the year members had been free from accidents. The income, including £76 carried forward from the previous year amounted to £204. Of this £55 had been received from private subscriptions, and the corporation had donated £60. The corporation had also paid £71 for water rates, rent of central station, gas, and fire alarms and telephones. The amount carried for-ward was £70. The valuation of the plant account prepared for the corporation was £740. The officers of the brigade are: — Chief Officer, Superintendent Duncan; Captain. E. Wakefield; Lieutenants, S. E. Hocking and E. Smith; Treasurer, G. J. Plenty; Surgeon, Dr. J. H. Evans; Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. W. H. Goldfinch; Apparatus Officer, P. G. Hocking; Secretary, C. H. Rosenhain; Auditor, J. James and D. W. Boath.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 16 November 1911, page 12

FALSE FIRE ALARM.

The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was called out on Wednesday at 5.10 p.m., the alarm coming from Gibson-street, Bowden. There was no fire and the alarm was caused by the lightning.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 11 December 1911, page 1

FALSE FIRE ALARM.

The Hindmarsh volunteer fire brigade turned out smartly on Monday morning at 10 o'clock when the hooter at the gas works sounded. The alarm, however, proved false. The alarm was accidentally given.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 12 December 1911, page 14

FALSE FIRE ALARM.

The Hindmarsh volunteer fire brigade turned out smartly on Monday morning at 10 o'clock when the hooter at the gas-works sounded. The alarm, however, proved false. The alarm was accidentally given.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 15 December 1911, page 10

FALSE FIRE ALARM.

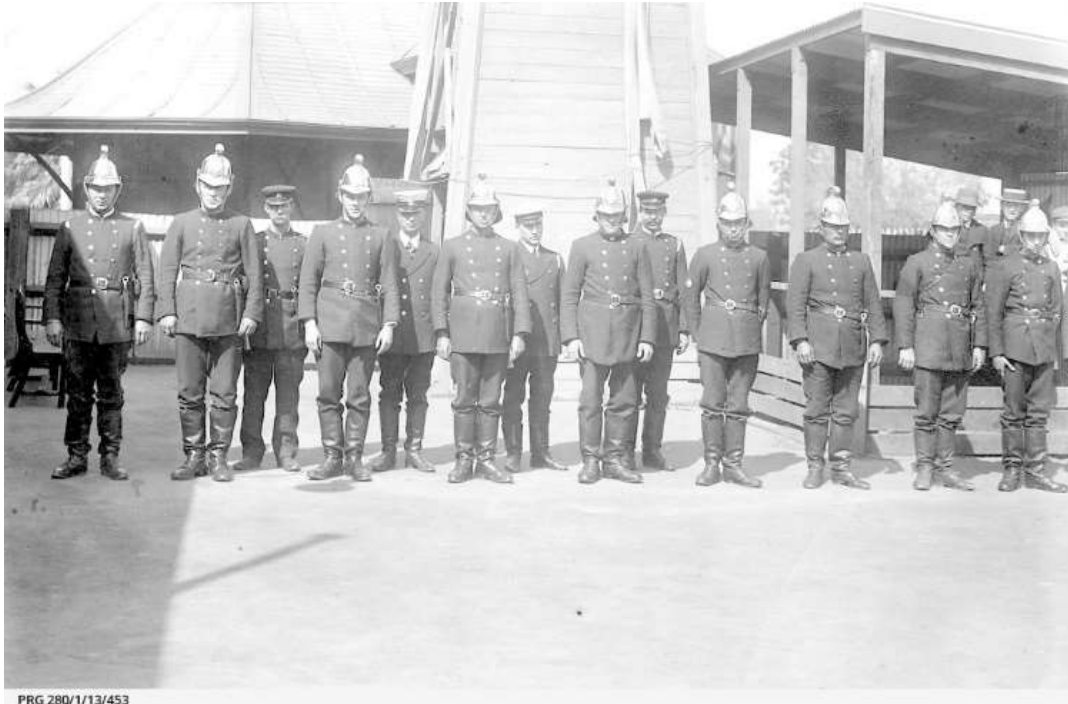
The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was again called out at 1.20 p.m. Thursday by a false alarm.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Saturday 23 December 1911, page 8

HINDMARSH FIRE ALARMS.

Early on Thursday morning a gang of line repairers was at work in Hind-marsh endeavoring to remedy the defects in the wires which have recently caused so much annoyance to the local fire brigade. The lines were thoroughly overhauled, and as the customary daily call did not occur no doubt the defects have been located and remedied.

1912



Men of Hindmarsh Fire Brigade, South Australia [PRG 280/1/13/453] Men of Hindmarsh Fire Brigade wearing their uniform with the traditional brass helmets. Approximately 1912. Part of Searcy Collection

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 2 January 1912, page 1

FALSE FIRE ALARM.

The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was called out at 11.33 o'clock on Tuesday morning, but the alarm proved false. Apparently there is something wrong with the alarm apparatus.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 3 January 1912, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE CALLED OUT.

At 11.30 on Tuesday morning the Hind-marsh Fire Brigade received a call from the fire alarm on the Port road, opposite the police station. The firemen turned out quickly, but on arrival at the alarm found that the glass was not broken, and it is surmised that the defective wires which gave the brigade so much trouble a week or two ago had again played a trick with them. The wires were thoroughly overhauled some days ago, and it was hoped that the trouble would be overcome; but apparently there is some serious defect in the wires. During the afternoon a party of line repairers spent some hours in overhauling the wires, and it is hoped the trouble will now cease.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 9 January 1912, page 8

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

A letter was read at the Hindmarsh council on Monday from the secretary of the local Fire Brigade (Mr. H. C. Rosenhain), in which it was stated that Chief-officer J. Duncan, after 27 years' service in the brigade, had tendered his resignation. The reason given was additional responsibility in connection with private business, and the illness of his wife. It had been found necessary to appoint a successor, and the choice had fallen on Mr. G. J. Plenty, who had been connected with the brigade for 17 years. Mr. Duncan also wrote expressing regret that he had been compelled to resign. The brigade, he said, was in a good position, and the firemen were never more united. The fire extinguishing appliances were in good order. He recommended Mr. G. J. Plenty as his successor. The Mayor (Mr. J. D. Brown) said he hoped the good services of Chief-officer Duncan would be recognised. Alderman Richardson moved— "That the resignation be received with regret." Mr. Duncan had been an able officer, and it would be difficult to fill his place. The motion was carried, and it was decided that the Fire Brigade committee should take into consideration the best means of recognising the services of Mr. Duncan.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 19 January 1912, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE

The fire brigade committee of the Hindmarsh Town Council met on Wednesday evening to consider the resignation of Superintendent Duncan. Mr. Duncan's work was highly spoken of by the mayor (Mr. J. D. Brown) and members of the council, and it was decided to recognise his services at an early date. The new superintendent, ex-Councillor G. G. Plenty, was present, and mentioned that at the present time the brigade was in a better state of efficiency than ever before, while the men compared favorably with firemen in any other part of the State. Members of the brigade were present at the meeting, and on its conclusion the health of Mr. Plenty was honored at the instance of the mayor. Members of the council promised the brigade all the support they had the power to render. The brigade is highly thought of locally, and has rendered valuable service to the town.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 3 February 1912, page 30

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.



MR. JAS. DUNCAN,
Who has resigned the position of Chief
Officer, after 27 years' service.



MR. G. J. PLENTY,
The new Superintendent.

MR. JAS. DUNCAN, Who has resigned the position of Chief Officer, after 27 years' service.

MR. G. J. PLENTY. The new Superintendent.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 19 March 1912, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE PROTECTION.

At a previous meeting of the Hind-marsh Town Council Councillor Priess gave notice of motion to ask a series of questions relative to fire protection at Hindmarsh and to the local fire brigade. At Monday evening's meeting the following replies were given by the mayor (Mr. J. D. Brown), who said:—"Speaking broadly, there is an obligation on the part of the corporation to afford protection against fire. Section 211 of the Municipal Act gives power to corporations, either by themselves or in conjunction with others, to make such provisions as may be deemed necessary. It is under this section that the local fire brigade has been supported, as power is given to extend the general rates in this direction. No special rate for this purpose could be levied without the consent of the ratepayers. In 1903, when the corporation resisted being forced under the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, the cost of the local permanent brigade was estimated at £1775, and the annual upkeep at £879. The corporation's portion of these amounts were £394 and £195 respectively." Briefly, the questions asked were:—1. If the local brigade became extinct, could Hindmarsh be compelled to come under the Metropolitan Board? 2. Would the town go unprotected if the brigade became extinct? 3. Could a special rate be levied? 4. Could a special rate be levied if local brigade became reorganised as a municipal brigade? 5. If they came under the Metropolitan Board how could funds be raised? 6. Could the same method be adopted toward the local brigade? 7. If Hindmarsh came under the Metropolitan Board what would the initial expenses be and the amount of annual upkeep? The mayor said that he could better reply to the questions in a general way, and gave the replies as stated above.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 20 March 1912, page 13

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Corporation rubbish tip in Carrondown is a source of trouble to the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade, as the firemen are frequently called out when the smouldering

debris breaks out into a flame. At 1.30 on Tuesday morning the brigade were again called to the corporation pughole to extinguish a fire.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Saturday 6 April 1912, page 8

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The firemen comprising the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade are always ready for an emergency call, and have never failed to respond to the sound of the gasworks hooter and wend their way to the central fire station, notwithstanding the numerous false alarms. A few weeks ago the cause of the recent false alarms was said to have been removed, but on Friday evening at 6.40 the firemen received a call, and discovered that it was another false alarm caused by the "wires crossing." The firemen turned out in good numbers.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 9 May 1912, page 11

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

Mr. James Duncan, who recently resigned the office of superintendent of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, after 28 years' active service, was entertained at a farewell social on Wednesday evening by the members of the brigade. There was a full muster of firemen. Superintendent G. J. Plenty, who presided, said they had met to do honor to their late superintendent. No one was more deserving of honor at Hindmarsh than Mr. Duncan, and nothing they could give him would repay him for the service he had freely rendered to the town. Mr. Duncan had always been ready and willing as superintendent of the fire brigade to save property from destruction by fire, and he had brought the brigade up to the present high standard with a kind and firm hand. He knew the firemen would endorse the remark that Mr. Duncan was a credit and honor to the town. He would rather serve under Mr. Duncan than be a superintendent, for they were losing a friend, whom they all held in the highest esteem. He called on Captain E. Wakefield to present to Mr. Duncan a large framed photographic group of the members of the fire brigade, numbering 23, with Mr. Duncan's picture in the centre. The inscription on the frame was:—"Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Presented to Superintendent Duncan by the members on his retirement after 28 years' active service."

Captain Wakefield, in asking Mr. Duncan to accept the presentation, referred to the good feeling that existed between their guest and the firemen, and said it was satisfactory to know that there had never been any friction in the brigade. He had found Mr. Duncan ever ready to help them. (Cheers.)

Lieutenants S. Hocking and Smith, and Mr. C. H. Rosenhain (secretary of the brigade), supported the remarks of the previous speakers. Mr. Duncan, in returning thanks, said although he had left the brigade he would be always ready to render what assistance he could. He appreciated their gift highly. He hoped the members of the brigade would stick together and keep up their good name. (Cheers.)

Mr. Duncan presented Captain Kiphraim Wakefield with a gold medal in recognition of 20 years' valuable work, and Lieutenant Sydney Hocking with a gold medal for 18 years' valued assistance. He also made a presentation to the secretary of the brigade (Mr. C. H. Rosentain). He and Captain Wakefield and Lieutenant Hocking had helped him considerably, and wished to register their kind assistance.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 18 May 1912, page 40

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

On Friday, May 10, a fire occurred on the premises of G. H. Mitchell & Sons, at Adam street, Hindmarsh. The night watch-man (Mr. T. Faint) made the discovery at 8.30 o'clock, and immediately gave the alarm. The Hindmarsh Brigade, under Superintendent G. J. Plenty, were promptly on the scene. The main building was well alight, and the flames were bursting through the roof. The buildings are used for wool scouring and drying. They adjoin W. H. Burford & Son's soap factory— where a disastrous conflagration occurred on Christmas Eve, 1907—and cover a large block of ground, extending back to the river bank. The firemen did splendid work, and although the flames were spreading in all directions, along the wooden rafters, the brigade got them under control, and in about two hours completely extinguished them. The men were hampered somewhat by an inadequate water supply. The outbreak was supposed to have originated above a stove which supplies hot air for drying wool, and it was near that portion of the building that the fire raged fiercely. (Several residents nearby said that about an hour before the alarm was given they detected the smell of burning, but did not place any importance to it, and it is, therefore, supposed that the fire had been smouldering for some time before it was discovered.

The damage could not be definitely estimated without an examination in daylight. It is thought that it will amount to many thousands of pounds worth. At one time it was feared that the flames would spread to the surrounding buildings, which are connected by covered platforms in some cases; but the brigade saved an enormous amount of destruction, and altogether put up a creditable performance.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 25 May 1912, page 18

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

Our Hindmarsh correspondent writes concerning the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade:— "There are 25 men on the active list, besides auxiliaries—men who have gone through the brigade, and who still willingly assist in cases of emergency. The discipline is good, and the esprit de corps is excellent. The brigade has good appliances. The only deficiency is a steam fire engine. However, the usefulness of one would be almost nullified by the smallness of mains within the town. The brigade is supported by local corporations and voluntary contributions. The corporation grants £60 yearly, maintains the fire station, and supplies gas, water, and all other necessaries at an average cost of about £70 per annum. The Government has always recognized the brigade. It installed the fire alarms, and maintained them free of cost until the Commonwealth took possession of the Post and Telegraph Department, and since that time the State Government has paid the expense. But there recognition and support cease. The insurance companies do not contribute anything to the brigade's support. Not only do the Fire Underwriters' Association refuse to assist the brigade, but it also stipulates that no individual company can contribute towards the aid of the volunteer brigades. For several years £50 annually, was given by the Fire Underwriters' Association, but afterwards discontinued; and yet the brigade has saved them a considerable sum of money. Apparently the association favours a permanent body of fire fighters, the cost of which, with only six men, would be to it, at the least, £450 per annum. A permanent brigade, consisting of half-a-dozen firemen, could not give the protection that the present body provides, because, besides the head station, there are a number of small

stations in various parts of the town with appliances for the use of the present firemen or auxiliaries residing in their vicinity. When an outbreak of fire occurs this convenience enables the firefighters to get the water into play at the earliest possible moment. At a recent conflagration at Hindmarsh 25 uniformed men were at the scene within five minutes of the alarm. The moral and financial support of the local town council has always been a source of satisfaction to the men who so whole-heartedly give their services gratuitously in the interests of the townspeople. The attitude of the Metropolitan Brigade towards the volunteer body discourages the possibility of the Hindmarsh men rendering practical assistance to the city firemen in an emergency. Their continued efficiency has been due largely to the chief officers. For many years Mr. J. M. Reid acted in that capacity, and he was succeeded 28 years ago by Mr. James Duncan, who resigned in January last. Mr. Duncan received a presentation in behalf of the brigade, and a committee is preparing for a public recognition. The present chief officer, Mr. G. J. Plenty, has been connected with the brigade for years, and there is every reason to believe that the fine traditions of the brigade will be worthily upheld by him.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 31 August 1912, page 1

BIG BLAZE.

ADELAIDE ROPEWORKS DESTROYED. Fully £50,000 Damage.

During the early hours of this morning fire broke out in the south-east end of the Barbed Wire, Rope, and Nail Manufacturing Company's ropewalk at Croydon, and, despite the efforts of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, practically demolished the whole of the rope works. These works are situated on about five acres of land bounded by Government road on the south, Ridley street on the east, Government road on the north, and the Port railway line on the west. The rope walk extends along the side of the railway line, and the rope and twine spinning rooms, offices, boiler rooms, stores, &c, front Government Road and the south end of Ridley street. This morning when people began to proceed to and from the city by tram the whole area was enveloped in smoke, and of the rope walks only the walls and the chimney stack were standing. Everything else had been destroyed. The place was strewn with sheets of galvanised iron, twisted and blackened, from the fallen roofs, the costly spinning machines were rendered useless, and tens of thousands of big balls of binder twine burned to ashes or still smouldering. In the middle of the yard a large store filled with raw material for making twine was also destroyed with its contents. The outbreak is shrouded in mystery. Mr. McNiece, the stationmaster at Bow-den, knocked off work at about 1 o'clock on Saturday morning, and quietly wended his way to his home in Government road opposite the rope works office. He was walking down Ridley street at about 1.20 a.m., and noticed nothing unusual. There was a slight smell of burning, but he took no notice of this, as he thought that it emanated from the company's destructor, which frequently smoulders all night. So he went home to bed, but not for long. At 2 a.m. a Kilkenny resident saw flames and thick smoke rising from the vicinity of the works, and at about 2.20 a.m. a young man named W. Busbridge, residing in Coglin street, also saw the outbreak located it, and gave the alarm to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade at 2.25. The members of the brigade, under Superintendent Plenty, were soon on the spot. The Superintendent, after a lightning look round, directed the attention of his men to saving those portions of the works so far untouched by the fire fiend. By this time the neighbours had turned out in force. Mr. McNiece, whose son is in the brigade, was early on the scene,

and at once an effort was made to save the office. In this Superintendent Plenty and his men joined, but it was very soon apparent that the task was a hopeless one, and as it was observed through the broken office windows that two big safes containing books and papers were, though discoloured and scorched by the intense heat which raged there, evidently intact, it was resolved to leave this portion of the premises to its fate and to fight the progress of the flames elsewhere. By 2.35 the full force of the brigade— 25 able and willing volunteers, brave, cool men — was on the spot. There was a splendid supply of water. Superintendent Plenty concentrated all the energy of the brigade in an heroic effort to save the flames from spreading northward from the Rope Works to the nail and barbed wire premises. The wind was blowing strongly from the north-west. A small hole was broken, through from the nail factory to the rope works by Superintendent Plenty to enable him to see what the fire was doing in the latter premises, and when he had ascertained its extent, he closed the opening and set to work to check the fire spreading. In this he was successful, and with his men saved the whole of the nail and barbed wire-making machinery, which to-day is all in as good order as ever it was and ready for work again on Monday. Having saved the Nail Works, men were set to work to keep the flames off the engine and boiler rooms, and again their plan was successful. The fire having been concentrated to the southern portion of the premises, men were sent to pour water on the flames in the offices, &c., facing Government road. Here three of the firemen, Messrs. Millar, Ferris, and Howie, had a miraculous escape from death. They were pouring water through the windows, when Superintendent Plenty appeared in that portion of the scene and noticed the brick wall tottering. He had just time to yell out an alarm, causing the men to jump into the middle of the roadway, when the wall fell with a crash on to the spot where they had been working, literally cutting the hose, which they had dropped, to pieces. Though some of the debris was thrown on to the three men, they were fortunately uninjured. All this morning, after about 8 o'clock, men were employed moving wire and other material from the portion of the works destroyed and stacking it between the remains of the rope walk and the railway line. This wire — of which there are thousands of coils— has not been much damaged, though its temper has been injured by the fire. Men were also busy bringing down portions of the roofs which had not fallen and were considered dangerous. Otherwise the firemen were content to pour water on to the mounds of smouldering twine and raw material, trying to quench the fire. For a day or two it will be impossible to accurately ascertain the amount of damage done, but it is roughly set down at between £50,000 and £60,000.

Mr. Taylor, the manager of the works, was one of the earliest on the scene, but he could do little but express his keen sorrow at the happening. He is of opinion that the contents of the two safes are undamaged. He has no idea as to the cause of the fire, as everything was apparently safe and in the usual apple pie order when he left on Friday night. The disaster has come at a most unfortunate period of the year. The company has been preparing for the coming harvesting season, and had hundreds of thousands of balls of binder twine ready for delivery. Hundreds of orders were ready to be fulfilled, but now all the twine has been destroyed, and farmers and others will have to go elsewhere for their supplies. This will be a great loss to the company. The stock, buildings, and machinery were fully covered by insurance, the liability being spread over several offices. The directors of the company will meet on Monday to consider the advisability of starting work on binder twine elsewhere, at as early a date as possible. The employees, for whom much sympathy is felt, may therefore look forward to resuming work before long.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 3 September 1912, page 4

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. J. D. Brown) on Monday evening, at the Town Council meeting, paid a tribute of praise to the local fire brigade for the good work done on Saturday morning in saving valuable property from destruction at the Rope, Nail, and Barbed Wire Works, Ridleyton. He said they all appreciated the noble efforts of the firemen.

Councillor Nieass moved—"That this council has every confidence in the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade." He had noticed that the superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade had disapproved of the local brigade. That officer had said that he had not been asked to go to the fire at Ridleyton on Saturday. The complaint of the officer was that the Hindmarsh Council had not asked to come under the Metropolitan Brigade. He thought the longer they kept out of that the better. It would be necessary to support the brigade with a farthing rate to place it on a better footing. A permanent brigade would cost a two penny rate. The brigade had saved £30,000 for the fire insurance companies, and, notwithstanding that and other large sums saved, which amounted in twelve months to £100,000, the paltry sum of £50 had been withheld by the Underwriters' Association, which at one time was annually given to the local brigade.

Alderman Wood seconded the motion. He said a capitalistic spirit was behind the words of Superintendent Rickwood. He eulogised the local brigade, and said the people of Hindmarsh were satisfied with it. Alderman Park said if Superintendent Rickwood had such a body of men as the Hindmarsh firemen he would have reason to be proud of them. He disapproved of Mr. Rickwood throwing a slur on the local brigade. The motion was carried. Alderman Richardson referred to a promise made by Mr. S. Kidman of a horse to the local brigade, and desired to know to whom the offer was made. It was stated that a horse had been promised, and that in reply to "a reminder" from the council, Mr. Kidman had said that one would be sent.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 6 September 1912, page 8

FALSE FIRE ALARM.

On Monday morning the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received an alarm of fire from No. 7 alarm in Gibson street, Bowden. Fourteen members of the brigade were on the spot in a remarkably short space of time, but happily it proved to be a false alarm. Superintendent Plenty complains of the bad state of the wires, and states that although numerous complaints have been sent to the authorities no notice is taken of them. Continual false alarms are a source of great annoyance, both to firemen and the public, and something to remedy the defects should be done. The quick response to this alarm further indicates that Hindmarsh is well protected from fire, and that the volunteers are a capable and well-trained body of men.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 17 October 1912, page 8

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The annual report and balance sheet of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade have just been issued. The statement indicates that the brigade is in a strong position financially, and that the organization is in a high state of efficiency. The principal amounts of income were

from private subscriptions (£58) and grants from the corporation. There had been 45 calls, one of which was malicious. Messrs. G. H. Michell and Sons sent a cheque for £20 for distribution among the firemen who had given the whole amount back to the executive of the brigade for the purchase of a new horse for the reel. The animal had since been secured. So soon as funds would permit, a first-aid motor turnout would be purchased. All entertainments in the local town hall were attended by members of the fire brigade for the purpose of rendering their services if necessary. The best thanks of the brigade has been tendered to its hon. Secretary (Mr. C. H. Rosenhain) for valuable services rendered, especially during the past year.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 25 October 1912, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Fire Underwriters' Association for several years made an annual grant of £50 towards the funds of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, but the allowance was discontinued two or three years ago. The grant, together with that of the local corporation and a few private donations, was the principal income of the brigade. Consequently, when the under-writers notified the brigade of its intention to withdraw support it was a keen disappointment to the volunteers. The members of the town council joined the brigade executive in an endeavour to persuade the association to renew the vote, but their efforts were futile for many months. However, the Secretary of the Brigade (Mr. C. H. Rosenhain) has now been notified by the Underwriters' Association , that that body has decided to grant £50 to the volunteers. The excellent work done by the brigade at the recent conflagration at the Croydon ropeworks, where they saved thousands of pounds worth of property, had a lot to do with the decision. The sum named, and the £50 given by the ropeworks management, have put the finances of the brigade in a healthy state, and the money will be expended in improving the appliances.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 2 December 1912, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. J. D. Brown), at a municipal meeting on Saturday evening in the local Town Hall, mentioned that the fire brigade had just been called out to a fire, and he thought they were deserving praise for their noble work done without reward. There was no question that it would continue, notwithstanding the opposition of the insurance companies and some public men not in the town. The opposition to the brigade had, however, lost weight and influence. There had been 15 more calls on the brigade than during the previous year, and two large fires, when a great "save" at each was made. The Underwriters' Association had taken cognizance of the good work done by the brigade by again giving it £50. The firemen had generously agreed that all the money given them should be devoted towards improving the brigade, and that was a noble action. As a matter of fact, it was money given to the council, and the firemen's act was praiseworthy. It was hoped that they would soon have a motor reel.

1913

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 1 January 1913, page 12

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade were called out to a fire at 5.47 on Monday evening at Peacock's bridge, over the Torrens. A number of boys had made a fire to cook fish caught in the river, and the flames extended to some part of the bridge, which was only slightly damaged. The firemen quickly extinguished the blaze.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 10 February 1913, page 16

FIRE AT CROYDON PARK.

Soon after 4 o'clock on Sunday afternoon the Hindmarsh fire brigade was called to a fire on the premises of Messrs. Richardson & Jarvis, builders, at Croydon Park. The firemen found that some rubbish was alight behind the workshop, and soon extinguished the flames.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Monday 17 February 1913, page 1

BROMPTON PARK FIRE.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called out at 3 a.m. on Sunday to a fire which occurred in a stable and shed at the rear of the premises occupied by Mr. Goodfellow, in Pickering street, Brompton Park. The firemen were quickly at work, and the flames were subdued before any material damage was done. A couple of horses were only just rescued from the stables

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 18 February 1913, page 4

SHED ON FIRE

After a long run of fake alarms the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to a fire about 3 o'clock on Sunday morning. The men responded smartly, and found that a wood and galvanised iron shed was being destroyed. A horse, harness, carpenter's tools, and clothes were stored therein. The horse was slightly burnt before it could be released. The shed and the other contents were destroyed. Mr. H. M. Goodfellow, on whose premises the fire occurred, estimated his loss at £40. It is thought that the flames spread from the side of the building, on which some clothing was in readiness to be washed, but how the fire originated is not known.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 4 March 1913, page 8

GENERAL NEWS.

ADELAIDE ROPE WORKS.

New buildings have been erected for the Adelaide Rope, Nail, and Barbed Wire Works at Ridleyton, and some of the members of the Hindmarsh Town Council fear that workmen in case of a fire will not be able to escape from the place quickly. The Chief Inspector of Factories (Mr. J. W. Bannigan) was written to on the question, and in his reply, read at the council meeting on Monday evening, he stated that the means of egress provided was sufficient for the number of men to be employed. Councillor Senior contended, in spite of the opinion given, that a fire at the works would be disastrous to the workmen, as there was a dead wall along Government road, and should a fire occur in the back rooms the workmen would have to go through it to escape from the building. The council he said, in its endeavors to secure the safety of the workmen, had done all it could, and accomplished nothing. He hoped when the Municipal Act was amended greater powers would be given to

municipal bodies in regard to the erection of buildings. The works committee recommended that the local fire brigade should inspect the works and report.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 24 March 1913, page 2

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called out to a fire in Albemarie street, West Hindmarsh at 4.20 on Saturday afternoon. The fire was confined to the kitchen of a house occupied by Mr. P. Hartshorne. On arrival the firemen found that one side of the kitchen was well alight, but owing to the good work of the brigade the flames spread no farther. On Friday the brigade, under Captain Wakefield, was responsible for another good save. A small fire on the premises of Mr. J. Whillas, North Croydon, occupied their attention on this occasion.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 14 May 1913, page 12

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

Ald. King, at a meeting of the Hindmarsh Town Council on Tuesday evening, reported that the fire brigade committee of the council had conferred with the members of the local volunteer Fire Brigade Board. It was decided at that gathering than an overland motor reel be purchased for the brigade at a cost of £340. The following motion was also agreed to— "That the council contribute the £100 promised when required, and assist as private members in securing subscriptions for the balance." The brigade already had £150 towards the cost of the new reel, which would be 25-horse power, and when the council paid its contribution of £100 this would leave a balance of £90. It was not expected that any difficulty would be found in the raising of this amount. The report was adopted. The joint Secretaries of the fund, Mr. C. H. Rosenhain (Secretary of the Brigade) and Cr. Nieass, are issuing a number of collecting cards to the members of the council and the brigade and others who are interested in the matter. They are setting out on neatly printed cards interesting facts in connection with the brigade. The volunteer body consists of 26 officers and men, and the annual cost to the corporation is £60. To have a permanent brigade of one officer and five men would mean an initial cost to the corporation of £500, and the annual maintenance payable by the ratepayers would be £300. This would necessitate a special rate. Besides the £150 towards the cost of the new reel, the brigade has in hand £50 for the purpose of equipping the engine when procured. Circulars asking for donations are being sent to the leading ratepayers in the town, and it is hoped that the necessary £90 will be obtained without much delay.

Sport (Adelaide, SA : 1911 - 1948), Saturday 7 June 1913, page 10

THEY SAY!

OUR READERS VIEWS

AT HINDMARSH FIRE STATION

Andy P. is an excellent cueist; last week he made a break of 5. Mac. is proud of being on the selection committee. Darkie is always anxious to get home early on Wednesday night. What for, we wonder?

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 11 June 1913, page 14

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE

An "Overland" motor reel for the Hind-marsh Volunteer Fire Brigade has been purchased, from Murray Auger, Limited, at a cost of £340, which, with other incidental expenses, will make the total £400. Towards this amount the brigade has in hand £200, and the local town council has decided to give another £100. An effort is being made to raise the deficiency of £100 by private subscriptions from residents and business people of the town. The Secretaries of the fund, Mr. C. H. Rosenhain (Hon. Secretary of the brigade) and Cr. Niess, have had collecting cards printed and issued, together with a circular letter pointing out the value of the brigade to the town, and asking residents to liberally subscribe towards such a deserving object.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 11 June 1913, page 1

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE

Councillor Nieass on Tuesday evening at the meeting of the Hindmarsh Council, reported that the overland motor fire reel would be delivered to the local fire brigade shortly. An effort was being made to raise the £100 required, the council having promised £100 of the £400, the total cost of the motor.

Sport (Adelaide, SA : 1911 - 1948), Saturday 14 June 1913, page 7

THEY SAY!

OUR READERS VIEWS

AT THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

Mac was swanking at the races trying to pick a winner. He could not pick a diamond out of a pug-hole. Shiner S. is a candidate for a billiard handicap, and is training-on O.T. Pomp is going to Sydney with the footballers. All the boys will miss him. The Angaston Express has collected £220 toward the new reel. He's a marvel. Alderman Hock has put in some good work lately with his hammer and chisel. Frankie P. is good with a paint brush, but he can't play billiards. Toot G. is now a missing link. This weather is too cold for courting in the Bowden jungle. Andy P. is never short of money, cos he's always making dough. Buster H. is a full blown ambulance man but he can't bandage a bee's knee or a spiders elbow. Harry, the Sec, is being cleaned, oiled, and well wound-up for the coming football match. He wants a new spring and two new hands. Brusser H. never leaves his dungarte pants off—not even on a holiday. Charley F. thinks twice before turning out to a fire during the small hours since he has become a benedict. Napoleon L. is still unemployed. Why not try Dingey R. for a job? Fisherman Bob gave the beer a severe jolt the other day. Darkie is opening a motor school when the reel arrives.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 16 June 1913, page 8

NOTES AND QUERIES.

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

From C. H. Rosenhain (Secretary H.V.F.B, Port road, Hindmarsh). and F. K. Nieass (Corporation representative, East street, Brompton):— "The Register has lately given prominence to the forward movement of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, for which

we are sincerely thankful. Could we further trespass upon your kindness by asking space to place before your readers a few facts and figures concerning this organization? The fact that this is a volunteer brigade has led some people to believe that the organization is only of a secondary nature, but that is not so, as numerically and in efficiency we claim to have a staff second to none outside the city. There are 20 officers and men, all thoroughly trained and competent, with terms of service ranging from 28 years downwards, the average being over eight years. The head station and four branches are fitted with appliance of the latest design. The committee have now decided to secure an Overland motor reel, and confidently appeal to the rate-payers of Hindmarsh and the general public for financial assistance. The motor, when complete, will cost £400. The firemen have contributed £200 of money received for personal services at various fires, the corporation donated £100, and there is thus a deficiency of £100. It does not require any comment to prove that a motor reel would be a decided advantage to all sections of the ratepayers of Hindmarsh. When secured it will be a valuable asset to the town. If all the citizens would contribute a small amount the task would not be a difficult one; therefore we again appeal to all, not to wait for a collector to call, but to forward any amount, however small, to any member of the fire brigade or Hindmarsh Corporation.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 17 June 1913, page 13

FIGHTING FIRE.

At the weekly parade and inspection held at the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade Station on Wednesday evening last, the opportunity was taken to submit to practical test an appliance known as 'The Unicorn First Aid Fire Extinguisher'. A fire was started of some inflammable material, which had been previously saturated with kerosine. When it was thoroughly alight the extinguisher was brought into use, resulting in the complete extinction of the fire. This test being regarded by Superintendent Plenty as highly satisfactory, it was decided to provide a "Unicorn" fire extinguisher for each of the hose reels.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 29 August 1913, page 5

FIRE BRIGADES BILL.

From W. Collin Brand, Hindmarsh:— "The Chief Secretary is reported as having said that "At present the important towns of Hindmarsh, Thebarton, Prospect, Walkerville, and Rose Park are dependent for the protection from fire on the inadequate resources of their local volunteer fire brigades." In the first place, with the exception of Hindmarsh, the above named towns have no fire brigade at all, so that they are not dependent on volunteer fire brigades for protection. This being so, I take it that the Minister's remarks apply only to Hindmarsh. Regarding the inadequate resources' of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, one has only to point to such splendid work as was accomplished at Harris, Scarfe's rope works and Michell & Sons, woolscourers, in 1912, and John Reid's barkmills in 1911, when many thousands of pounds worth of property was saved by our volunteers. The Chief Secretary stated that he expected trouble from Hindmarsh; and, in the face of Superintendent Rickwood's remarks, in September, 1912, he will no doubt get all he expects, and perhaps a great deal more. He con-tinned:— "As long ago as 1907 Superintendent Rickwood recommended in his report to the Fire Brigades' Board that an efficient system of protection for a radius of four or five miles from the city should be provided; but, though he had emphasized the necessity of such a system each year since, nothing had yet been done.

If there were three more suburban stations provided, one at the intersection of John street and Port road, Croydon (to protect Hindmarsh, Croydon, Kilkenny, Woodville, Torrensville, Thebarton, Bowden, &c.), a second at Wayville West (to safeguard the surrounding districts), and a third at Burnside, between Rose Park and Dulwich (for the protection of the Burnside, Eastwood, Knoxville, Dulwich, and adjacent districts), the whole of the suburban systems would then be linked up. The strength of such a system would lie in the fact that one station could be backed up by another. Three or four men, with appliances, could be allotted to each station; and if this were done, no matter in which suburb a fire occurred, there would be a brigade within three minutes' call.' To one who has lived in this district for over 20 years such talk as this appears idle, for it is folly to suppose that a brigade is going from Hindmarsh or Woodville or Torrensville in three minutes, and where is the backing up to come from? If the brigade received a call from Woodville it would take them at least 10 minutes to get there; and in the event of a large conflagration, where are their extra men? If men could be spared from the city or Port Adelaide— which is doubtful— their services, would not be required when they arrived on the scene, unless it was to 'make up.' If you have only four men at Hindmarsh, how could you back up any other brigade and at the same time leave adequate protection here? The Chief Secretary further stated that correspondence had been received from this town stating that the people would be burdened to the extent of £1,000 annually. 'From figures prepared regarding similar districts, the cost would not be more than £160—that was the figure for Unley.' It is ridiculous to suppose that a brigade of four men is sufficient to deal with such fires as I have previously mentioned, and before you could receive reinforcements from the city or elsewhere your chance of saving the properties would be lost. At the three fires mentioned there were at the onset 25 men to fight the flames from all sides, and they were able to save properties valued at about £100,000. To adequately protect this town under the new system would cost the ratepayers at least £500 a year, and then they would not have a brigade anywhere near to the strength and efficiency of our volunteer brigade, which does not cost the town £100 a year. At the head station they have a 30-h.p. 'first aid' motor, capable of doing 45 miles an hour, carrying 1,000 ft. of hose, two hydrants, two chemical extinguishers, and five men, also a horse reel carrying 600 ft. of hose and six men. In addition to these, they have five outstations, each with a hose cart, 400 ft. of hose, and appliances, which have proved of great assistance as 'first aid' equipment. It would be well for the Chief Secretary, before the debate is resumed, to come to Hindmarsh and inspect our six stations and their appliances, so that he may be in a better position to judge concerning our 'inadequate resources.' If he would care to accept the invitation, I would be pleased to arrange for him to motor round the district, so that he may have a fairer view of the work of the Hind-marsh Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 30 September 1913, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The position of Hindmarsh, with its volunteer fire brigade, under the proposed new Fire Brigades Bill, was referred to at the ordinary meeting of the local council last evening. Councillor Senior asked whether, in the event of the Fire Brigades Bill being passed, it was the intention of the mayor to call a public meeting to offer a protest against some of its provisions. The Mayor—I think that would only be looking for trouble. Continuing, he said he had been in touch with two or three lawyers, and their interpretation of the Bill was similar to his own—that the Bill as it stood had no intention of handing over to the Government any more burdens than they carried at present. It was a question of whether the Government

would have to take over any responsibilities, as well as the councils. Councillor Holiday drew attention to one clause in the Bill protecting certain bodies. Would it be competent for the council to get exemption? The mayor could not say. Councillor Nieass—Is it a fact that the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade will resign if the present Bill is passed? The Mayor—I don't think our men would take such action. I think the Chief Secretary did not fully understand how Hindmarsh was placed when he spoke on the Bill. We have at present a splendid fire brigade, but in two or three years it might go out of existence, in which case the Government would step in, no doubt, and come to our assistance. It was decided that a member of the Legislative Council, who had not spoken on the Bill, be asked to move the adjournment of the Bill to give members an opportunity of visiting Hindmarsh on the occasion of the christening of the new motor reel next Saturday.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 4 October 1913, page 18

GENERAL NEWS

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

This afternoon the Hindmarsh volunteer fire-brigade, will give a demonstration in Milner-street, Hindmarsh to mark the introduction of the new first-aid motor reel. The Chief Secretary (Hon. J. G. Bice) will attend.

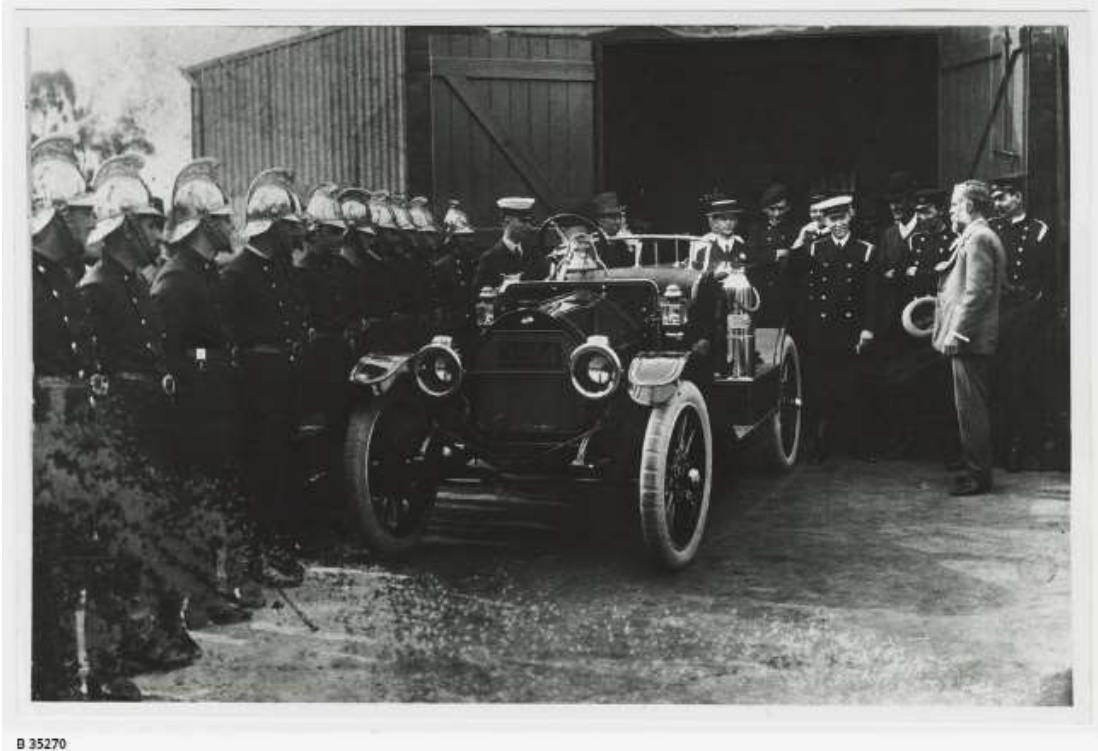
Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 6 October 1913, page 3

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

A CAPITAL DISPLAY.

A large number of people assembled at the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade Station on Saturday for the purpose of celebrating the acquisition by the volunteers of a new motor reel purchased at a cost of £100. Among those present were the Hons. F. S. Wallis and E. L. W. Klauer. M.L.C.'s, Mr. Green, M.P., the Mayor (Mr. J. D. Brown), the Town Clerk (Mr. T. J. Bishop) and members of the council. The volunteers presented a fine appearance as they formed into line in answer to a bugle call, and they were complimented on all sides on their splendid display of discipline. Fireman Hooker showed the visitors over the watchroom, and Fireman McNiece conducted them through the recreation room. The various features of the horse and motor reels were explained by Firemen A. Miller and C. Brand respectively. The Mayor said it gave him pleasure to perform the duty of handing over the new motor to the brigade. The superintendent had assured him that a number of the volunteers had made themselves efficient in driving the reel, which would prove a great acquisition to the firefighting appliances of the town. The members of the brigade had rendered valuable help in the work of securing the necessary amount for the purchase of the new motor. The corporation was at a low ebb financially, and was therefore not able to give the brigade very much monetary help. This fact had not prevented the volunteers in carrying out their object of acquiring a motor reel, and they raised the required sum. It was 29 years since the first meeting was called for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a brigade for the protection of the town. Shortly afterwards one of eight men was established. The corporation added £20 to an amount of £100 that was raised from another source, and these sums enabled the volunteers to purchase their first appliances. In February, 1895 Supt. Salter, of Adelaide, took charge of the men, and drilled them into working order. The site of the first station was next to that of the Land of Promise Hotel, on the Port road. In 1891 the council gave the

brigade the present building, which had previously been used as a day school and lecture hall. The station was now managed in the most up-to-date manner. There were seven alarms in various parts of the town. Two men were on duty at the station every night, and the same number were always in attendance on Sundays and holidays. The volunteers took a really live interest in their work, and on each Wednesday evening they gathered for the purpose of drill, to clear up the station, and to inspect the fire alarms. The horse reel was built by one of the volunteers so far back as 1893. and was still in splendid working order. The brigade had recently purchased a young horse, which had since been thoroughly trained in its work. Each year the brigade received a subsidy of £60 from the corporation, and £50 from the Fire Underwriters' Association. Besides the headquarters, there were five out-stations with hose carts and other necessary appliances. The whole plant was worth £800, and the brigade was 26 strong. All the men had given excellent service, and 20 of them had been members for more than five years. The superintendent and chief officer (Mr. G. J. Plenty) had been with the brigade for 26 years. The Hon. F. S. Wallis said the Legislative Council was now discussing the Consolidating Fire Brigades Bill, one of the clauses of which provided that on the recommendation of the Fire Brigades Board the volunteer brigades could be merged into the general permanent scheme. He was satisfied, so far as Hindmarsh was concerned, that if it retained its present state of efficiency there was no danger of it being taken over. He congratulated the volunteers on the capital smartness they had displayed, and the general up-to-date-ness of the brigade. Mr. Green, M.P., said that in any serious crisis volunteers always rendered excellent service. He was pleased to know the equipment of the local brigade was growing in a way which would assist the volunteers in their valuable and dangerous work. The Hon. E. L. W. Klauer predicted that as the various suburbs grew they would be of necessity bound to come under the permanent brigade system. Ald. King moved, and Ald. Wood seconded, a vote of thanks to the speakers. Carried. Superintendent Plenty, in accepting the motor reel in behalf of the brigade, assured the residents that it would be used in the best interests of the town. He thanked the donors and all others who had assisted in securing for the brigade such a valuable addition to their equipment. An alarm of a supposed fire in Milner street was given. The men turned out smartly with the horse and motor reels, and reached the scene by way of Mary and Ann streets and Port road. Several hoses were run out, and streams of water were being played on the roadway in quick time. The motor reel was in charge of Lieut. S. Hocking, with Firemen A. Miller, Battersby, Ferris, and Pearce as his assistants. Foreman P. Hocking was in command of the horse reel, and he had with him Firemen Harley, Harding, P. Miller, and Hall. Fireman Hooker gave a capital display of one-man drill. Refreshments were partaken of by the visitors in the tea-rooms of the bowling green.



B 35270

State Library of South Australia - Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh [B 35270], HINDMARSH: A visit, possibly by the Governor, to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade whose members form a guard of honour by a motor car which seems to belong to the visitor; good detail of the car, especially of the bonnet area. 1913. Part of Hindmarsh Collection.



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State Library of South Australia - Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh [B 34700]. Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade vehicle an Overland. Note; not to be copied with permission from the Donor. 1913. Part of Hindmarsh Collection.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 11 October 1913, page 33



HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

Left: MAYOR OF HINDMARSH (MR. J. D. BROWN) HANDING OVER THE NEW MOTOR FIRE-REEL SUBSCRIBED FOR BY THE RATEPAYERS AND COUNCIL.

Right: SUPERINTENDENT PLENTY AND HIS GALLANT BAND OF FIRE-FIGHTERS.

Krischock, photos.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 13 October 1913, page 11

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

To the Editor.

Sir—It is hard to understand the motive of those opposing the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade. At last an adverse correspondent has signed his name, therefore we presume that we can at least approach him as one believes in a fair deal. Will "Norman Andrews" kindly enlighten the ratepayers of this municipality as to his reasons for going out of his way to write against the H.V.F.B.? Is he a resident of this suburb? I think not. Then why such an outburst? Possibly Alderman Wood was correct when he suggested that someone is interested in establishing the Metropolitan Brigade here. Mr. Wood's reply was correct. Mr. Andrews was perhaps ignorant of the fact regarding the fires attended by the city staff; in any case, his statements are incorrect. I believe that the manager of the Rope Works would be willing to put him right concerning the results of that fire. As the points raised for our critic, have already been discussed (and proved favorable to the Hindmarsh men) when replying to other correspondents we cannot expect further space to deal with them. Nevertheless, as Mr. Andrew appears to be specially interested in fire brigade affairs, and is really in the dark regarding Hindmarsh, we cordially invite him to visit the head station, when any information he might require will be gladly supplied. This invitation has been extended to others who have made unwarranted attacks upon our organisation, but to date has not been accepted. Why? The reason is obvious. "There are none so blind as those who will not see." If Mr.

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11 December 2024

Andrews will seek further information, and again write his impressions, no doubt they will be vastly different from those written recently. As he has some faith in the volunteer system, I would refer him to Mr. Walsh of the Payneham Volunteer Fire Brigade, for outside evidence of the efficiency of the Hindmarsh staff. When challenged your previous contributors have not returned to the debate, but have acknowledged defeat by their silence. We hope that in this instance our correspondent will either try to substantiate his statements or openly withdraw them, as surely he does not desire to make an unjustifiable reflection upon any organisation. The H.V.F.B. court investigation, this being sufficient to prove that they have nothing to fear from an enquiry as to their efficiency or past actions. We confidently await the investigations of "Norman Andrews," "Advance S.A.," "20th Century," or any other person with or without "an axe to grind."—I am, &c., F. K. NIEASS. Brompton, October 10, 1913.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 17 October 1913, page 17

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

VISIT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

With a view to ascertaining the effectiveness of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. G. Bice) and the Hon. A. W. Styles, M.L.C., visited the station in Hindmarsh-place on Thursday afternoon. They were met by the Mayor (Mr. J. D. Brown), Alderman King, Councillors Holiday and Nieass, the town clerk (Mr. T. J. Bishop), Superintendent G. J. Plenty, and Mr. H. C. Rosenhain (secretary). The mayor showed the Chief Secretary over the premises and gave him some information about the working of the brigade. He mentioned that not long ago the firemen had £50 given them for their own use by the proprietors of the Adelaide Rope, Nail, and Barbed Wire Works, in recognition of their effective services at the fire at the company's establishment, when thousand of pounds worth of buildings and machinery were saved from destruction. This and other gifts had been handed over by the brigade towards the cost of the new motor reel. The Minister expressed satisfaction at what he had seen. Later the brigade was called out, and the motor reel arrived at the fire alarm on the Port-road near the police-station from the central station, a distance by the road of about a quarter of a mile in a two minutes, and the horse reel in two and a half minutes. Thirteen men, under Lieutenant S. Hocking, turned out. The Chief Secretary congratulated Superintendent Plenty on the quick turn-out. The branch station on the Port-road, near Chief-street, was visited, and the Chief Secretary was told that a hose cart was kept in each of the five branch stations, and that these were sometimes the means of quickly attacking a fire, as not infrequently citizens, when they saw a blaze, lent assistance by running the hose cart to the scene.

Subsequently the Chief Secretary explained in the mayor's parlor that he had no desire to interfere with any effective fire brigade, and he would have a clause inserted in the Fire Brigades Bill before Parliament to the effect that before anything was done towards bringing a volunteer brigade under the Fire Brigades Board the municipality or district council concerned should be notified, and a decision should not be arrived at until at least three months' notice had been given. Where there was adequate protection against fire he did not think any Minister would interfere, especially when a volunteer brigade was efficient, but the law must enable the Government to take action when inefficiency prevailed. Mr. Styles expressed the opinion that the local council and the brigade would be satisfied with the

promise of the Chief Secretary. The Mayor agreed that this was all they needed. Mr. Rice said he would have the clause drafted and submitted to the mayor for approval.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 24 October 1913, page 6

FIRE AT HINDMARSH

GOOD WORK BY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

At 4.35 on Thursday afternoon the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was summoned to a fire on the premises of Mr. G. A. Parker's chemist shop on the Port road, Hindmarsh. On arrival of the brigade it was found that a wood-and-iron shed at the back of the premises was well ablaze. The shed was used as a storeroom for packed and unpacked bottles, and at the time of the fire was well stocked with these lines, as well as a lot of empty cases and other material inseparable from a business of its character. It is greatly to the credit of the volunteer firemen that almost before the alarm from the gasworks' hooter had ceased sounding a handreel, well-manned was on the scene of the fire, and the horsereel followed in splendid time. Superintendent Plenty was quickly in attendance, and under his direction the firemen quickly had the flames under control, but not before the shed was gutted, and great damage done to the stock of bottles. The motor-reel came on the scene later, but the superintendent, seeing that the flames were under control, ordered its return to the head station. The fire originated through a lad, who was cleaning up the yard and burning the debris, allowing the fire to spread, and as a lot of loose straw was lying about the flames quickly got hold and spread to the structure. Mr. Snook, the manager of the pharmacy, when seen after the fire was unable to give an estimate of the damage, but said it was considerable. Mr. Snook spoke in high terms of the work of the firemen, and Superintendent Plenty stated that his men had done splendid work. The smart work of the men undoubtedly saved a serious conflagration, proving that the volunteers are quite capable of dealing with fires at any time they are summoned. Senior-constable Carroll and Constable Carrison rendered the brigade every assistance.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 24 October 1913, page 7

FIRE IN A SHED.

On Thursday evening, at 20 minutes to 5 o'clock, a fire broke out in a shed at the rear of Parker's chemist shop, on Port road, Hindmarsh. A number of empty boxes and cases of bottles were stored in the shed, and most of these were destroyed. Slight damage was done to the structure and to the shed at the rear of the adjoining premises, the National Bank. Mr. Hall, of the local volunteer fire brigade, noticed the outbreak in the early stages. He secured a hand reel from the branch fire station near by, and soon had water playing on the fire. The flames were quickly under control. The local brigade was called out, but its services were not required. Richard Webb, a boy employed on the premises, was burning rubbish in the yard about half an hour before the fire was noticed, and this was found to be the cause of the outbreak. The property is covered by insurance.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 27 October 1913, page 18

FALSE FIRE ALARMS.

The Hindmarsh fire Brigade was called out at 11.45 on Saturday night. Superintendent Plenty and 18 men turned out, but there was no fire. At 11.15 on Sunday morning, the hooter at the gas works again called the firemen out, but the alarm was a false one.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 27 October 1913, page 4

FALSE FIRE ALARMS.

Just before midnight on Saturday the hooter at the Brompton Gasworks sounded an alarm of fire, and the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade turned out promptly, the motor and horse reels being fully manned. The alarm proved to be a false one. On Sunday morning the brigade received another false alarm. It is believed that the alarms were caused through defects in the wires.

Port Adelaide News (SA :1913 - 1933), Friday 26 December 1913, page 3

A GREAT FIRE

Pengillys Mills Gutted Estimated Damage, £60,000

One of the most disastrous fires which has occurred round Adelaide for many years broke out at Messrs. A. Pengelley and Company's cabinetmaking factory, South Road, Edwardstown, between 12 and 1 o'clock on Friday morning. The greater part of the place was completely gutted, and a conservative estimate of the damage was £30,000, although probably the loss much exceeded this amount. The property was insured. The vast quantity of timber work offered a tremendous foothold for the fire, and for hours the flames shone out over miles of country with unabated fury. So far as could be ascertained, the outbreak originated near the engine house. By the time the alarm was given, dense volumes of smoke were pouring out from the centre of the buildings, and the site became a blazing furnace, spreading from one portion to another until some five or six acres belched forth in volcanic eruption. The fire occurred at a particularly inopportune time, as the Christmas stacktaking should have been commenced the same morning.

—A Sheet of Flame.—

Most of the destruction was continued to the two big mills, and the engine house. The mills contained a considerable amount of timber, and furniture in varying degrees of completion. The spectacle was an awe-inspiring one, and in the darkness of the early morning, the whole neighborhood was lit up as though it were daylight. The roof and sides gave in with a crash, and the spectators could gain through the skeleton framework an idea of the tremendous extent of the conflagration. Blazing piles of wood, and torn and twisted galvanized iron, marked the site of the cabinet-making industry.

—Two Horses Burned.—

At the rear of the buildings were the stables, in which two horses were burnt to a cinder. It was impossible to save them, and their terrified shrieks as they dashed about in the narrow confines of the stalls in frantic endeavors to escape lent a pitiful touch to the scene. One of them, a grey pony, was kept in the stables on account of his fractiousness when turned out among other horses. Fortunately, the remainder of the animals had been placed in the paddock on the previous day.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 26 December 1913, page 4

PENGELLY'S FIRE

THE BRIGADE REPORT,

Superintendent Rickwood reported on Friday morning:—"The brigade received a call at 1.21 a.m. by telephone from Pengelly & Co.'s place. He turned out two motors and eleven men, including the chief officer and two station officers. On arrival the fire was confined to three sections of the place, and the factory was well alight. Lines of hose were at work under Mr. Mathias, the manager, and his son. Eight lines were soon got to work, and we were assisted by the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade and four tramway employes. They all did good work, and the flames were confined to the sections which were alight when we arrived, about two and a half acres being ablaze. The portion saved consisted of the car construction shed and furniture store, and a stack of seasoned timber on the northern boundary. We were absent from the head station five and a half hours."

1914

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 1 January 1914, page 8

GENERAL NEWS.

THE EDWARDSTOWN FIRE.

The big fire that occurred on the premises of Messrs. Pengelly & Co., at Edwardstown, last week, was the means of throwing out of employment nearly all the employes of the firm, but, with characteristic energy, the firm has set about the work of clearing the site preparatory to rebuilding the works. Advantage of the opportunity will be taken to introduce improvements and alterations, so that out of the ashes of the old place will arise a modern furniture factory that will eclipse anything of the kind in the Commonwealth. Cables have been sent to London for various machines to be dispatched by the first steamer, and arrangements have been made for the temporary housing of other machines available, so that the workmen can proceed with the orders in hand at the time the fire destroyed the premises. Within the next eight days some of the machines that are to replace those destroyed, will be at work in the improvised rooms, and the firm hopes to have 200 men employed within the next fortnight. The full complement is over 400, but until the machines on the way out to Australia are in position it will be impossible to put on the full staff. Mr. Mathias, the managing director, said on Wednesday, "I think at the most only five or six weeks will elapse before we have more than 400 men at work again. If the fire had not occurred we were going to put on 30 more at the beginning of January, so that there would have been nearly 450 employed. The men have been exceedingly kind and thoughtful. They have come forward and volunteered their services without asking for payment, but, of course, we wanted their sympathy only. I don't care where you go, you will not find a more competent or a better staff of workers. There is not a man I would like to get rid of. We have picked our men for years, and none but the best are employed. We all know our interests are mutual, and it was a sad day for the men, as well as ourselves, when the fire occurred. Many of them who lost their stock of tools had no insurance money to help them, but they have bought new tools and are anxiously waiting to start again. Everything possible is being done to expediate the reconstruction of the premises and the resumption of work, and I shall be delighted to see everyone of our men back again."

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 2 March 1914, page 17

THE EDWARDSTOWN FIRE.

SERVICES OF BRIGADE RECOGNISED.

The secretary of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade reported at a meeting on Wednesday evening that a letter had been forwarded to the brigade by Messrs. Pengelley & Co., Edwardstown, in which was enclosed a cheque for £10 as a recognition of the excellent services rendered by the Hindmarsh men at the recent fire at their establishment. It was decided to thank the donors for their gift.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 14 March 1914, page 12

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

Shortly after 2 o'clock on Friday morning the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was summoned to a fire in Orsmond-street, Hindmarsh, at the residence of Mrs. Carson. The fire, the cause of which is unknown, was confined to a kitchen of wood, and iron, situated a few feet from the house. The room and contents, with the exception of a stove, were destroyed, the damage being estimated at about £30.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 1 May 1914, page 11

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, who have in connection with their institution a recreation club, governed by a committee of five elected annually, a club which has proved beneficial in many respects to the members, have been successful, as the result of membership fees, private donations, and two picture shows held on Thursday evening respectively at the Hindmarsh Town Hall and Rowe's Picture Pavilion, in raising funds to furnish free of debt their cosy room at the brigade headquarters, in which there are a billiard table and new piano. Attached to the recreation room is an up-to-date lavatory with hot and cold shower, erected solely by the members.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 14 May 1914, page 11

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

At the request of the officers of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade a number of residents of the district assembled at the fire station on Wednesday evening to witness a demonstration by the firemen. A couple of "calls" were given, and the motor and one horse reel were quickly dispatched. The object of these demonstrations, which will be held monthly, is to give the people an insight into the management of what is claimed to be the best equipped and most efficiently manned volunteer fire brigade in the Commonwealth.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 6 July 1914, page 6

FIRE AT TORRENSVILLE

RESIDENTS EARLY MORNING CALL.

A fire broke out on the Henley Beach road, Torrensville, which burned out the front portion of two shops and damaged several others, about 4 o'clock on Sunday morning. Mrs. Martin, who keeps a grocery business, was aroused by a loud noise, and on getting up observed a flash of light in the front corner of her shop. She jumped out of the side window and told her

boy to run and tell Mr. Arthur, who lives two doors away. But the little fellow was so terrified that he did not go any farther than the back yard. In the meantime Mr. Robinson, who lives nearly opposite, saw the flames and ran over and awoke Mr. and Mrs. Arthur and family.

While Mrs. Martin was waiting for assistance she was battling with baskets of water to try to put out the flames. Seeing nothing could be done to save the front portion of the building she got out all the furniture she could move. The Adelaide firemen responded to a telephone call in record time, and had they been a few minutes later nothing could have saved Mrs. M. Arthur's shop, and also the block of buildings, which consists of 11 or 12 shops.

The shop on the east side was occupied by Mrs. Venus, who carried on a milliner's business, but no one lived in the back portion. All the goods were destroyed, but the loss is covered by insurance.

By the time the fire reached Mrs. Arthur's ham shop the occupants, with the aid of neighbors, had removed most of the furniture and goods to the opposite side of the Henley Beach road. The water damaged a portion of the goods, but they were insured in the Queensland Insurance Company. The shop on the west side was unoccupied.

All the occupants had to leave in their night attire. Mrs. Martin, whose husband is at Broken Hill, is the biggest loser, as she states her stock of groceries, &c., was worth £250, and was insured for only £150. The furniture was covered by a like sum. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was telephoned for, but the Exchange could not get into communication with the Gas Works. The owner of the properties is Mr. Kilgariff, and it is understood that they are insured.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 19 August 1914, page 13

FIRE IN A SHED.

In the early hours of Tuesday morning portion of a shed at the rear of the premises of Mr. C L. Goodfellow, greengrocer, Taylor street, Ridleyton, was destroyed by fire. A set of dray harness and eight bags of chaff were ruined. Mr. Goodfellow's loss is covered by insurance.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 19 August 1914, page 4

FIRE AT RIDLEYTON.

A fire occurred at 1.50 a.m. yesterday in Mr. C. Goodfellow's stables, Railway terrace, Ridleyton. When the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, which responded quickly to the call of the gasworks' hooter, arrived on the scene, the stables were well alight. The stables are about 30 yards from the house. Mr. Goodfellow was fortunate in being able to save his sulky and horse, but harness and a considerable amount of chaff were destroyed and the building severely damaged. The damage, which is estimated at £60, is covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 22 August 1914, page 11

A SMALL FIRE.

A fire occurred on Friday afternoon at about 3 o'clock in a back room of a house occupied by Mrs. Eardley, of Holden-street, Hindmarsh, and owned by Mr. Gapper. The street fire alarm was broken, but the person who gave the alarm did not await the arrival of the brigade, and, in consequence, the horse reel and motor, after reaching the street alarm, did not know in what direction to proceed, as the fire could not be seen. After going to the Grange-road the firemen returned to the fire station, where Superintendent G. J. Plenty, who arrived shortly afterwards on a bicycle, reported that he had subdued the flames, which were confined to the ceiling. The damage done was slight.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 19 November 1914, page 3

FIRE AT KILKENNY.

A fire which broke out in an unoccupied house at Kilkenny about 9 o'clock on Tuesday night totally destroyed the structure. The house was situated in Torrens road, Kilkenny Blocks, and was the property of Mr. W. S. Chapman, of Hanson road. Woodville. It was covered by insurance to the extent of £200 in the Queens-land Insurance Company. Constable Curry reported that Mr. Stuart Bennett, who lives next door to the destroyed house, said that he was in his yard shortly before 9 o'clock when he noticed smoke issuing from the house. He made investigations and found a small heap of rubbish burning near the fireplace in the back room. He tried to extinguish the flames, but the fire got beyond control. A message was then sent to the volunteer fire brigade, but before the firemen, under Superintendent Phips, arrived on the scene the building was doomed. Fire-men from Hindmarsh also attended. Some misunderstanding concerning the telephone number of the local fire station delayed the arrival of the firemen. Residents are informed that in case of fire they should ring either Central 909 or 400.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Friday 18 December 1914, page 4

FIRE IN PUGHOLE.

Late on Thursday night the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was called to Drayton street, Bowden, where a large amount of rubbish in a pughole had caught alight. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 29 December 1914, page 1

FIRE AT SOUTHWARK.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call at about 11 o'clock on Mon-day night to a fire at Messrs. F. H. Faulding & Co.'s chemical stores, Southwark. When the brigade, under Superintendent G. J. Plenty, arrived a quantity of phosphates was well alight, and the fumes were suffocating. The fire was extinguished in about an hour by the use of chemicals and earth.

1915

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 29 January 1915, page 9

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

The Mayor (Mr. W. Wood) and members of the Hindmarsh Town Council inspected the local Volunteer Fire Brigade on Wednesday evening. A call was given from an alarm opposite the police-station, and within a minute the motor arrived, followed in quick time by the horse

reel and ladder. The Mayor and councillors were pleased with the efficiency shown by the brigade and the up-to-dateness of the station.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 28 April 1915, page 4

INJURED BY GAS ENGINE EXPLOSION.

Mr. A. J. Battersly, of Mann-street, Brompton, an employe of Haussen's Brewery, Hindmarsh, met with an accident at the brewery on Tuesday afternoon, at about 2 o'clock, which necessitated his removal to the Adelaide Hospital. He was working with two or three other employes when the cylinder of a gas engine burst, and some of the flying pieces struck him in the body and face, inflicting several severe wounds. Dr. Bonnin attended the sufferer, who is a prominent member of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 14 May 1915, page 11

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

Late last night a fire broke out in a house in Frost-street, Brompton. The place, which was unoccupied, was burnt to the ground, but the Volunteer Fire Brigade managed to save a large house next door, which was in danger for some time. The fire made a big blaze, which was plainly seen from various parts of the city.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 8 October 1915, page 2

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIREMEN.

The members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade are an enthusiastic lot of young men, who take great interest in their work. They love nothing better than to see the equipment of the brigade added to. The men give their services freely for the protection of the town from fire, and whatever money they receive from various firms to whom they have rendered valuable service is put into a common fund. It has now been decided to add another fine ladder to the motor reel, and this will enhance the value of the appliance in case of fire. Superintendent J. G. Plenty is naturally proud of his fine body of men, who are a credit to Hindmarsh. The brigade is splendidly officered, and the firemen are a sturdy band of fine young fellows. Several of them have volunteered for active service abroad.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 25 October 1915, page 3

FIRE AT BOWDEN.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call on Sunday morning, at about 10.30, to a fire in a house occupied by Mr. W. H. Farrant, in Torrens-road, Bowden, caused by an overflow of boiling tar from a drum in the kitchen. The brigade, under Superintendent G. J. Plenty, with motor, to which recently a ladder has been fitted overhead, and horse-reels, were soon on the scene, but their services were not required. Damage to the extent of about £5 was done.

1916

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 20 January 1916, page 4

HINDMARSH FIREFIGHTERS.

The statement that about 12 members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade intend enlisting for active service abroad has caused interest in local business circles. The brigade has done much to protect property from fire. The volunteer system has proved a thorough success at Hindmarsh. The equipment is up to date, and in all respects the brigade is competent to protect the town from the ravages of fire. It has taken Superintendent G. J. Plenty and his staff of officers many years' hard work to bring the staff of volunteers up to the present state of efficiency. The brigade is practically self-supporting, and the members are a hard working body of self-sacrificing men. Although the people generally applaud the desire of some of the best men to enlist, the alternative of being without firefighters is viewed with considerable concern. The corporation has deputed the mayor (Mr. W. Wood) and Superintendent Plenty to enquire into the matter with a view of keeping the staff and system up to its present state of thoroughness.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 22 February 1916, page 9

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

The financial statement of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade shows that the receipts for the year totalled £390 6/9, and the year's operations closed with a credit of £59 3/5. Donations amounted to £62 6/, while the corporation grant was £60, with a special grant of £20. The grant from the Fire Underwriters' Association was £50. The principal items of expenditure were Electrical appliances, £42 2/; fodder, £32 8/; clothing and boots, £17 0/9; night duty, £40 11/6; hose and appliances, £36 7/4; medals and certificates for long service, £15 1/9; stable additions, £20; furniture, £13 2/11; station expenses, £14 3/7; rent, head station, £30. The plant account prepared for the Hindmarsh Corporation is as follows:— Smoke helmets, £28 2/4; horse reel and hose, one manual fire engine, 5 branch station, and lookout, 6 handcarts, 1 patent hose winder and brusher, 4,400 ft. hose, couplings, and hydrants, £616 14 /3; billiard table and station furniture, £162 19/2; Overland motor reel (fully equipped), £340; 2 chemical extinguishers, £5 5/; total plant amount, £1.158 0/9. Everything is in first class order, and the plant thoroughly up-to-date, which reflects credit upon Superintendent Plenty, his officers, and the men under their charge. Fireman McNeice took over the secretarial duties three months ago from Private C. Brand who has enlisted.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 1 March 1916, page 8

AN EFFICIENT FIRE BRIGADE.

No greater tribute to the efficiency of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade could have been paid them than the fine turn out that occurred last evening. Nearly every member of the brigade was attending a social gathering on the Hindmarsh Bowling Green when an alarm of fire was sounded from the corner of Richard-street. In about 10 seconds every member had dropped his bowls, and in under the minute the motor reel, horse reel and other appliances were on the scene of the alarm. Fortunately there was no fire, but the turnout pleased ratepayers and the public who were present.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 22 April 1916, page 7

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

Every Good Friday the officers and men of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade meet for a social gathering. This year the usual routine was in some respects departed from, inasmuch as the customary hot dinner for members and friends was deleted from the programme.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit
www.fire-brigade.asn.au
11 December 2024

This course was decided upon as a mark of respect to six numbers of the brigade who are at the front. Light refreshments were provided, and a toast list was honoured. The Superintendent (Mr G. J Plenty) presided. He was supported by ex-Superintendent Duncan and Mr. H. Ray. Many friends visited the brigade during the day, and were shown recent improvements at the head station. A new switchboard and an up-to-date lighting apparatus were admired. The head station is now well equipped. In the morning a cricket match was played on the local oval between teams of firemen.

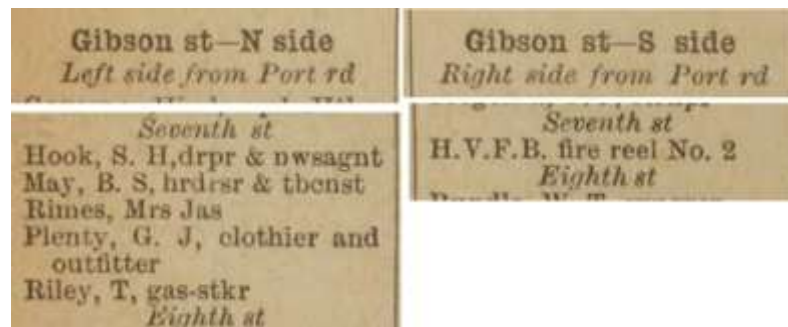
Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 24 May 1916, page 6

FIRE AT BOWDEN

GOOD WORK BY BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer firemen were summoned to a fire at 7.45 yesterday morning, on the premises of Mr. S. H. Hook, Gibson street. Bowden, who carries on business as a fancy goods and drapery merchant. Superintendent G. J. Plenty, who lives a few doors away from the scene of the fire, and opposite a branch station of the brigade, was quickly on the scene, and had a line of hose out, but owing to the smoke he was unable to do anything until the reels and appliances arrived. Most of the firemen were on the scene in commendable time, and with the assistance of the smoke helmet, the fire was located.

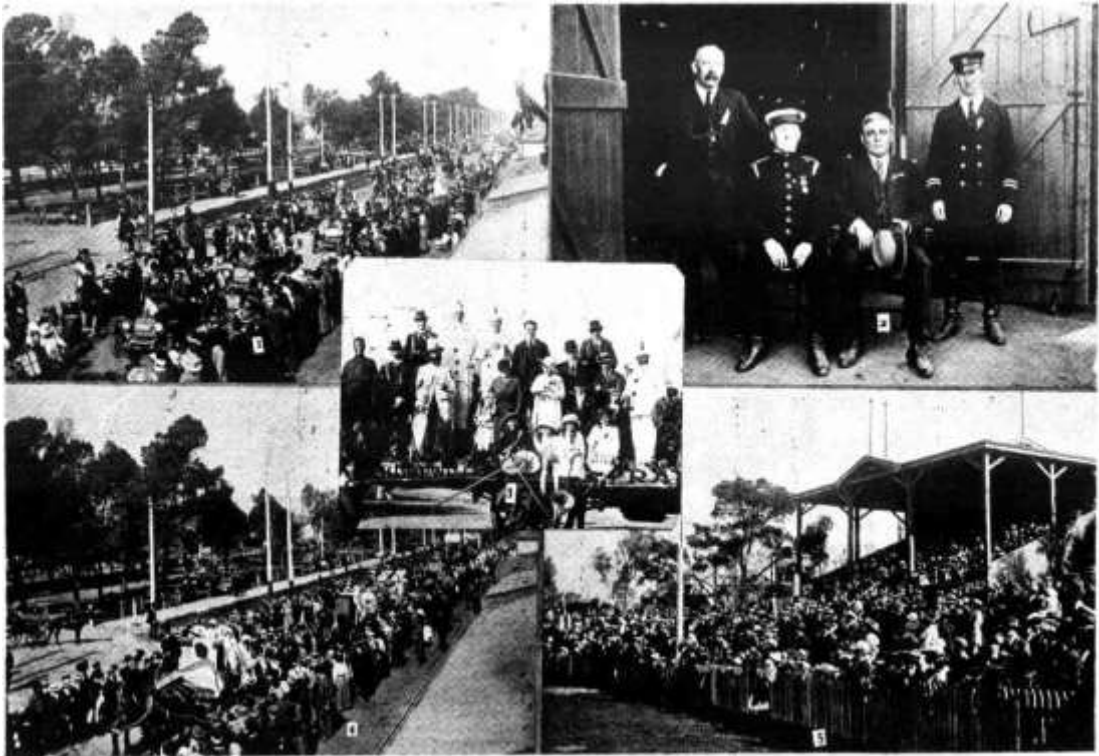
The shop carried a large stock of valuable goods and the good work of the firemen doubtless saved a serious blaze, as the building was surrounded by shops and dwellings. The fire was confined to the shop and the excellent efforts of the firefighters prevented more serious damage. The walls and roof were badly damaged, and much of the stock was destroyed, but a large quantity of goods was saved. The origin of the fire is a mystery, and the proprietor could not account for the outbreak. The shop and stock were insured.



Sands and McDougall Directory for 1916.

Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924), Wednesday 20 September 1916, page 14

PATRIOTIC CARNIVAL, PROMOTED BY THE HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE AND THE INDUSTRIAL LODGE, R.A.O.B., HELD AT HINDMARSH LAST SATURDAY.



1. and 4.—The procession passing along the Port Road. 2.—Officials of the Carnival (left to right)—Standing, Mr. James J. Crawford, Mr. E. W. McNiece (Secretaries); Sitting, Supt. Plenty (Treasurer), W. Teague (Chairman). 3.—Mr. J. Andrew's Concert Party. 5.—Crowd in the Grandstand at the Hindmarsh Oval.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Saturday 28 October 1916, page 4

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE AND THE "CALL UP."

A case of particular interest to the people of Hindmarsh was dealt with in the Southwark Exemption Court yesterday before Mr. J. H. Sinclair, S.M. The applicant was a member of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. The Mayor of Hindmarsh said if the members of the brigade were sent summarily into camp the town would be at the mercy of the fire fiend. A number of their men had gone. Captain Gilbert said he understood members of the city brigade had been granted temporary exemption of two or three months. The S.M.—"I am inclined to give temporary exemption. The superintendent of the brigade said the brigade needed a staff of 24 men. At present they only had 21. Six of their men had gone to the front. There were only four men concerned by the call up. Two of them had grounds for exemption. He asked for temporary exemption for two or three months for the other two. The P.M".—"I have no desire to make things harder than I am compelled to. I will give exemption for two months." The Superintendent— "Will your worship deal with the other cases in a similar way?" The S.M.— "What do you say, captain ?" Captain Gilbert—"I am agreeable."

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 11 December 1916, page 7

GRASS FIRE AT CROYDON.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was summoned to Croydon at 1.45 p.m. yesterday. On arrival it was found that grass in a vacant paddock was ablaze, but the flames were

quickly extinguished. The firemen, with appliances, were quickly on the scene and did good work.

1917

The Advertiser, Thursday 11th January 1917 page 9

ALLEGED BREACH OF COURTESY.

Members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade feel much hurt at what they term a slight. When the Thebarton Fire Station was opened on Saturday last, no invitation was extended to members of the Hindmarsh Brigade. It is claimed that Superintendent G. J. Plenty has done much for Thebarton people at fires there. It was thought as a matter of courtesy that he should have received an invitation to the ceremony. Councillor Dring intends to move in the matter at the next council meeting.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 7 April 1917, page 10

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

On Good Friday a social gathering in connection with the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was held at the head station. For years past it has been the custom of the firemen, their officers, and friends to meet on Good Friday for social intercourse, and this year's engagement was successful in every respect. A cricket match, Married versus Single, was played in the morning, and dinner was partaken of, Superintendent Plenty presiding. The loyal toast and that of "Absent members" was honored. In the afternoon singing, games, and tea were on the programme. A large number of prominent citizens were present during the day, and expressed pleasure at the fine bearing of the men and the splendid order maintained. Firemen were pleased to welcome ex-Superintendent Duncan, who for many years was in charge of the brigade.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 24 April 1917, page 8

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

FIRE AT BROMPTON GASWORKS

On Monday morning a fire occurred at the Gas Company's works at Bowden. A quantity of tar caught alight in the distillery, and the flames rapidly spread to adjoining buildings. The Volunteer Fire Brigade, helped by 60 employes of the company fought the flames with sand and chemicals. Superintendent Plenty stated that a serious conflagration was narrowly averted. A building near by was badly charred, and 40 or 50 barrels of tar were destroyed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 1 September 1917, page 15

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

On several occasions attempts have been made to bring Hindmarsh under the Fire Brigades Act and instal a permanent brigade, but such pressure has been brought to bear by the councillors, citizens, &c., that the various Governments have been convinced that Hindmarsh is sufficiently protected by its volunteer brigade. The last attempt was made about four years ago. After a strenuous opposition by the people of the town, the then Chief Secretary (Hon. J. G. Bice) visited the local institution and expressed his entire satisfaction. The matter then dropped. On Monday evening last the following letter was received by the

council:—"I hereby give you notice, in accordance with section 5 of the Fire Brigades Act, 1913, that the board has recommended the Governor to declare by proclamation that on and after the 1st January, 1918, the Fire Brigades Act, 1913, shall apply to the municipality of Hindmarsh, as delineated, in the plan attached hereto and therein margined in blue. I further give notice, in accordance with section 6 of the Fire Brigades Act, 1913, that it is the intention of the board to constitute a fire district, known as the Hindmarsh Fire District, and consisting of the municipality of Hindmarsh, and that portion of the district of Woodville as delineated in the plan as above referred to, find that the date of the commencement of the constitution of such fire district shall be the 1st January, 1918." The letter was received with surprise by the Corporation, and on the motion of Alderman Nieass and Councillor Dring the whole matter was referred to a full committee of the council, to which three representatives of the local brigade are to be invited. Alderman Nieass states—"It is certain that the council will unanimously and strenuously fight against the proposal. The main objections will be that under the permanent system the town will not be properly protected, as it is at present, and that the expenditure will be at least four times greater. Under the present system there are over 20 fully-trained men, whereas the new system would only provide four. As Hindmarsh has always been well satisfied with and proud of its volunteer brigade, the citizens fail to see why a permanent brigade should be forced on them, which would mean a special rate for less protection. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade is second to none of its class in Australia. There are over 20 experienced firemen. The plant at the head station consists of motor and horse reels, in addition to a complete complement of the most up-to-date appliances, and an electric alarm system connected with every part of the municipality. Then there are several branch stations, each with a hand reel, fully equipped. This is at least the one institution at Hindmarsh upon which there is a unanimous opinion by all sections of the ratepayers. The idea of the council is to co-operate with the local brigade and formulate a scheme to oppose the introduction of the M.F.B. at Hindmarsh, and when the Corporation makes its decision public it is certain that it will have the unanimous support of the citizens. When Superintendent Plenty was asked what he thought of the matter he re-plied:—"I must not say very much until the combined committee has dealt with the position, but as the town has always been well satisfied with its present protection, I fail to see why another attempt should be made to force something on the citizens which they do not want. We have the ratepayers solidly with us, and having convinced Governments of all political opinions that we are right, we have no doubt that we shall convince the present Ministers that the action of the board is not justified. Further information is being anxiously awaited for by the ratepayers, and if the board persist in their intentions, it is certain that there will be a tremendous opposition from the people."

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 4 October 1917, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

During the week the Hindmarsh Council made its annual inspection of the local fire brigade. Superintendent Plenty met the members of the corporation and conducted them over the station. The motor and horse reels and all appliances were in perfect condition. The recreation room was noted with approval, for everything for the pleasure of the men was provided. The lavatory was given special praise. The firemen had erected and fitted it themselves in a most elaborate manner, and it is second to none of its sort in the State. The alarms, &c. were in excellent order. In congratulating the brigade, the mayor stated that Hindmarsh had something to be proud of and nothing could be better than the present

brigade. There were over 20 fully trained officers and men, 10 members with from 10 to 25 years and nine with from five to 10 years' service. The officers' service periods were as follow:—Superintendent Plenty, 20 years; Deputy Superintendent Wakefield. 25 years ; First Lieutenant Hocking, 23 years; Second Lieutenant Smith, 16 years; Secretary and Treasurer E. McNiece, 7 years; Foreman Hocking, 13 years. The average turn out to the 25 calls during the year was 15 men. It is interesting to know that to maintain the present essential strength under the permanent system would cost approximately £4000 per year.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 28 November 1917, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

Yesterday the Premier (Hon. A. H. Peake) paid a visit of inspection to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and subsequently stated that he was much impressed with the spic and span appearance of the station and the smart appearance of the men. He informed the Parliamentary members for the district and also members of the municipal council that he would confer with them before taking any action regarding the recommendation of the Fire Brigade Board for the constitution of the district under the Fire Brigades Act.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 28 November 1917, page 4

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

About five years ago an attempt was made to bring Hindmarsh within the scope of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, but after the then Chief Secretary visited the local brigade nothing further was done. Hindmarsh has a volunteer brigade. Its plant is quite up to date, and the municipality claims to be better protected than any other place outside Adelaide. Another attempt is being made to force Hindmarsh to accept a permanent brigade, and never before have the citizens been so unanimous upon a question. Petitions of protest were circulated, and almost every person in the town was anxious to sign. The Premier (Hon. A. H. Peake) was approached, and promised to visit the Hindmarsh brigade. He did so yesterday morning, and on arrival at the station was met by the mayor (Mr. F. King), Superintendent Plenty, Deputy Superintendent Wakefield, and other officers of the brigade, Aldermen Nieass and Murphy, and Councillors Wright, Dring, and Noble. A thorough inspection was made of the station, which is elaborately fitted up with fire alarms and appliances. A turnout was witnessed and it was exceptionally quick. The visitors then proceeded to the No. 3 alarm on the Port road, over a quarter of a mile from the station, where the Chief Secretary turned the handle. Within two minutes the motor and horse reels arrived with 16 men, and within another minute two lines of hose had been connected with the hydrants and were ready for use. The Premier congratulated the brigade upon its smart appearance and work, and promised that before any further action was taken he would invite the two members for the district, with the mayor, to discuss the whole question with him. The residents of Hindmarsh fail to see why a permanent brigade should be forced on them when it is not wanted. Under the voluntary system, the town is better protected than it would be by the metropolitan brigade. The present system costs only a quarter as much as would be charged by the Fire Brigades Board. Instead of having 20 fully trained men in the heart of the manufacturing centre, four would be stationed somewhere near the Woodville boundary. If for no other reason, they say, war time economy should prevent the alteration of the fire system at Hindmarsh.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 28 November 1917, page 10

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Premier (Hon. A. H. Peake) visited the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade Station on Tuesday and viewed a demonstration by the men. He stated that he was much impressed by the efficiency of the brigade. He would confer with the local authorities before taking any action in connection with the recommendation that Hindmarsh should be made a fire district under the Fire Brigades Act.

1918

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 4 January 1918, page 1

SMALL FIRE AT HINDMARSH

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was summoned on Thursday to a fire at New Hindmarsh, where about 120 gallons of tar, belonging to Messrs. McGlew & Co., of Adelaide, was found to be alight at the rear of the residence of Mr. I. Howson, a carrier. The flames were extinguished by the brigade. The tar was not insured.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 7 January 1918, page 9

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

VOLUNTEERS TO BE RETAINED.

Some time ago the Fire Brigades Board recommended to the Government that the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act, 1913, should be applied to the municipality of Hindmarsh and a portion of the district of Woodville. This recommendation, if adopted, would have meant the abolition of the volunteer brigade at Hindmarsh, which has served the district efficiently for many years past, and the establishment of a permanent brigade under the supervision of the Fire Brigades Board. When this recommendation was announced persons interested in the matter organized a strong protest against its being carried into effect, and on December 18 a conference was held between the Fire Brigades Board, members of the Corporation of Hindmarsh, and the District Council of Woodville, the members of Parliament for the West Torrens District, the Chief Secretary (Hon. A. H. Peake), and Superintendent G. J. Plenty, of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. On that occasion arguments for and against the recommendation were forcibly put before the Minister, and a strong case was made out in favour of the retention of the volunteer system in this particular district. The Under Secretary has now written to Mr. Green, M.P., who introduced the deputation to the Minister, stating that the recommendation of the board had been considered, and the Chief Secretary did not propose to recommend to His Excellency the Governor to issue the proposed proclamation for the constitution of the proposed fire district. In handing this letter to a representative of The Register, Superintendent Plenty expressed himself as being highly delighted with the decision, which, he said, would be hailed with delight by the residents of Hindmarsh in general and the business people in particular. Already he said, his Brigade had received numerous congratulations upon the decision of the Chief Secretary, including letters from representatives, of some of the largest manufacturing firms in the district. The members of the local town council are unanimous in their desire for the retention of the pre-sent volunteer brigade, and their feelings on the matter might well be gauged by a letter received by Superintendent Plenty from one of the Aldermen, who wrote:— "This is a matter for general congratulation, but I felt that I would like to especially congratulate you and your brigade upon the result, and to say were it not for the efficiency

of the brigade and its brilliant records, it would have been impossible to have won the case. You have something to be proud of in the organization of the men, and I sincerely trust you and they will prosper in the work that has been undertaken."

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Monday 15 April 1918, page 2

FIRE AT WELLAND.

At an early hour on Sunday the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to a fire at the premises of Messrs. Altree Brothers, cabinet makers, in Welland avenue, Welland. The outbreak, which was discovered shortly before 6 a.m., was confined to a stack of blackwood and pine at the rear of the manufacturing building. Those who made the discovery fought the flames with such success that the services of the firemen were not required. The loss, which is estimated by the owners at about £40, is covered by insurance in the London and Lancashire office.

1919

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 4 January 1919, page 2

FIRE AT HINDMARSH

CHAFFMILL DESTROYED.

There was some excitement at West Hindmarsh this afternoon, when the chaffmill in Bond Street, belonging to Mr. James Booker, was completely destroyed by fire. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was quickly on the scene, and soon had the water playing on the mills. A strong westerly wind fanned the flames, and skilful work was necessary in order to save the adjacent dwelling and shop situated on the corner of Bond and Bertie Streets. The partition fences were torn down, and a strong force of water played in the locality. When the fire was controlled in that quarter attention was turned to the westerly side of the mill, where a large quantity of hay was burning. Anxiety was caused to the fire-fighters by the presence of a quantity of benzine stored in the building, but the careful and well-judged use of chemicals averted that danger. The mill was a lofty and roomy structure of galvanised iron and wood. The end at which the elevator was placed was over 30 ft. high. Inside the mill there was about 30 tons of hay, £15 worth of bran, two tons of chaff ready for delivery, about 600 chaff-bags, a trolley, two drays, a 17-h.p. gas engine, a 14-h.p. electric motor, a No. 6 cutter, and a 30-ft. elevator and hopper of a capacity of 50 bags. When the fire was first noticed there was a horse in the stable, but it was liberated. The whole place was completely gutted, only the elevator end of the mill remaining. Mr. Booker estimated the damage at between £500 and £600. There were insurance policies covering about £500 worth. The firemen had a very strenuous task. They were led by Superintendent G. J. Plenty, Deputy-Supt. E. Wakefield, and Lieut. S. Hocking, and E. Smith, each of whom was in charge of a team. More than 2,000 ft. of hose was utilised, and the firemen were at work until a late hour to-night turning over the remains of the 34 tons of hay, which continued to smoulder all the afternoon and evening.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 6 January 1919, page 7

CHAFFMILL DESTROYED.

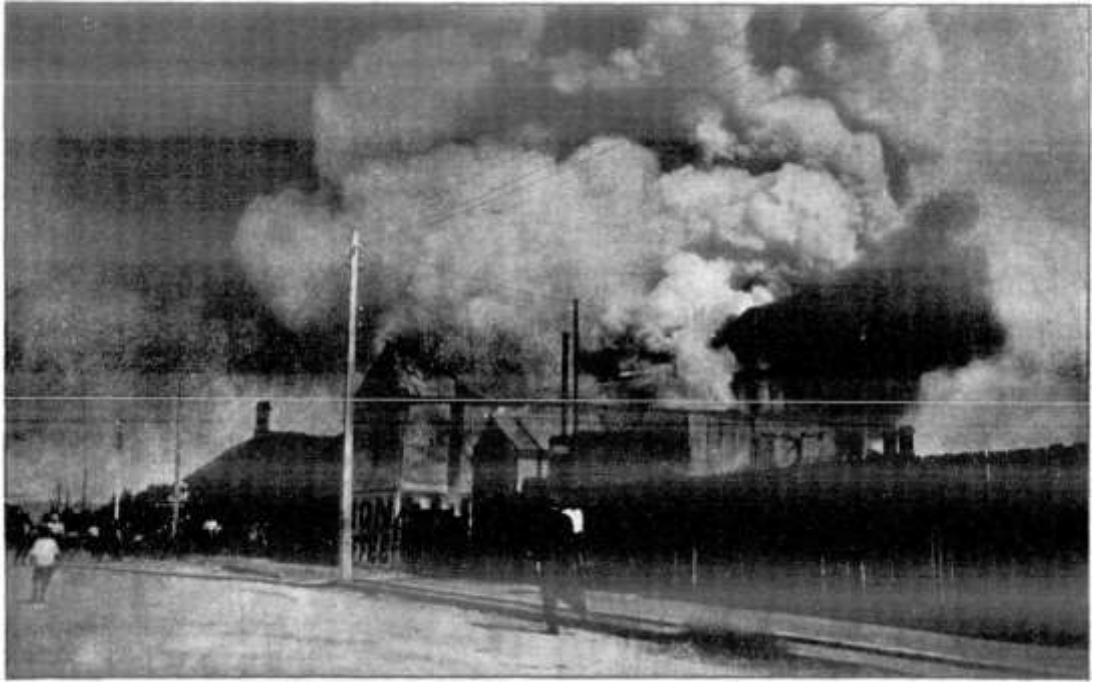
FIRE AT WEST HINDMARSH.

The chaffmill in Bond-street, West Hindmarsh, belonging to Mr. Jas. Booker, was totally destroyed by fire on Saturday afternoon. The alarm was given to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade from a public alarm on the Port-road at 4.10 p.m., and within a very short time the brigade, twenty strong, with the fire motor and horse reel, were on the spot, and four minutes after arrival had the water playing on the mills. The fire had a strong hold, however, and a "save" was an absolute impossibility. The firemen were greatly handicapped by the very poor pressure of water obtainable, and it was only by tapping a 10-in. main on the Grange-road and running the water through over 1,500 ft. of hose that they were able to get a stream which was at all serviceable. A strong westerly wind fanned the flames, and quick and skilful work was necessary in order to save the adjacent dwelling and shop situated on the corner of Bond and Bertie streets. The partition fences were torn down, and a strong force of water played on the locality. When the fire was controlled in that quarter attention was turned to the westerly side of the mill where a large quantity of hay was burning. Anxiety was caused to the fire-fighters by the presence of a quantity of benzine stored in the building, but the careful and well judged use of chemicals averted that danger. The mill was a lofty and roomy structure of galvanised-iron and wood, the end at which the elevator was placed was over thirty feet high. Inside the mill there were about thirty tons of hay, £15 worth of bran, two tons of chaff, ready for delivery, about 800 chaffbags, a trolley, two drays, 17-h.p. gas engine, a 14-h.p. electric motor, a No. 6 cutter, and a thirty-foot elevator and hopper of a capacity of 50 bags. When the fire was first noticed there was a horse in the stable, but it was liberated. The whole place was completely gutted, only the elevator end of the mill remaining. Mr. Booker estimated the damage at between £500 and £600. There were insurance policies covering about £600 worth.

The origin of the fire is a complete mystery, though the indications point to its having started in the vicinity of the electric motor. Mr. Booker stated that he securely locked the place up at 1.15 p.m., when everything was in order. He had occasion to return to the mill at 2.15, but there was no indication whatever of fire then. The firemen had a very strenuous afternoon. They were led by Superintendent G. J. Plenty, Deputy-Superintendent E. Wakefield, and Lieutenants Hocking and E. Smith, each of whom was in charge of a team. Over 2,000 ft. of hose were utilised, and the firemen worked until well past midnight turning over the remains of the 34 tons of hay, which continued to smoulder all the afternoon and evening. The fire is the biggest which has occurred in the Hindmarsh district for some time.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 11 January 1919, page 24

THE FIRE AT HINDMARSH.



CONFLAGRATION AT ITS HEIGHT,
The chaffmills of Mr. James Booker, at Hindmarsh were gutted on Saturday afternoon. Aided by a favorable wind the flames spread rapidly, and the houses adjoining were only saved by hard work on the part of the firefighters. Krischock, photo.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 21 May 1919, page 10

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE MEMORIAL

On Tuesday evening, at the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade Station, Colonel S. Price Weir, V.D.), D.S.O., unveiled a window in honor of members of the brigade who had enlisted. Six men joined the colors, and two of them, Sergeant Collin Brand and Corporal C. J. Stevens, made the supreme sacrifice. The Mayor (Mr. J. King), presided over a large attendance of residents who had met to witness the impressive ceremony.

Colonel Weir, in unveiling the window, paid a tribute to the members of the fire brigade for their loyalty in serving the district voluntarily in order to prevent the outbreak and spread of fires. Mr. J. M. Reid, who presented the window, had served the brigade for 16 years, and he could not have made a better gift to perpetuate the memory of their soldier comrades. Mr. Reid said he felt it his duty to show in some practical form his appreciation of the noble services rendered by the men from the brigade who had gone away to fight for them. The Hindmarsh Band was in attendance, and at the conclusion of the ceremony the brigade gave a splendid "turn out."



HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE MEMORIAL – CFS Promotions Unit 2020.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 10 July 1919, page 3

FIRE AT HINDMARSH

JAMES KING & SON'S PREMISES

About a quarter past 12 o'clock this morning a fire was discovered on the premises of James King & Son, Richard street, Hindmarsh. The blaze had a fair hold before being noticed, and the local firemen, in charge of Superintendent Plenty, were promptly on the scene. They had their work cut out to save the premises next door, J. Reid's tannery, from catching alight. The extent of damage was not known at the time of going to press.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 10 July 1919, page 1

HINDMARSH FIRE

A SERIOUS LOSS.

WORKS NOT INSURED.

At daybreak on Thursday only confused piles of black and smouldering ruins remained of the extensive joinery works of Messrs. King & Sons, at Richard-street, Hindmarsh, which had become enveloped in flames about midnight on Wednesday. The destruction wrought was as complete as could be as the fire, although got under control in the early hours of the morning, practically burnt itself out. Meanwhile, however, the stables of Reid's tannery, adjoining Messrs. King & Sons' premises, had been destroyed. Fortunately the horses and trollies were taken out in time. The loss sustained at the joinery works was estimated at from £7,000 to £10,000, and it was thought likely that to reinstate the buildings, plant, and

stock at the present time, in view of enhanced prices, would cost considerably more than the original calculation of the damage done. The loss was not covered by insurance, and much sympathy was expressed for the Messrs. King in their misfortune. Over 60 years ago the business was established by the late Mr. James King and his son, the pre-sent Mayor of Hindmarsh. Mr. J. F. King now has associated with him his three sons, Messrs. William, Albert, and Arthur King. They intended to reinstate the works as soon as it is possible to obtain the necessary plant and machinery. The number of men employed on the premises during the past week had been about 12, exclusive of outside hands. The general average during the year is about 50, including the outside staff, and a proportion of these will be affected in their employment with the firm until a fresh start can be made.

Constructed principally of galvanized iron, the demolished works covered about half an acre. On the upper floor of the main shed was the joiners' machinery shop. Downstairs were a variety of sawing, moulding, planing, and other valuable appliances. including a large beam saw, lathe, and drilling machines. In the shop above the equipment included a joiners' saw-bench, a buzzer, a thickness machine, circular head, tentoning apparatus, jig saw, and other devices. In the main yard close to the workshop were a 50-horsepower gas engine, and an 18-horsepower steam engine. In a big shed was the stock of blackwood, redwood, cedar, yellow pine, oregon, and kauri, seasoned ready for working up, and a quantity of flooring and door stocks. The firm had some important contracts in progress, and a good deal of finished work in connection with them was destroyed, including staircases, box frames, casement frames, doors, and windows, which were stored in a loft just behind the machines in the top flat. The cause of the outbreak was declared to be a mystery. Mr. J. F. King, who lives close by in Manton-street, was called up shortly after midnight and informed by someone who had seen the flames, that the works were ablaze. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was on the spot quickly, but the fire had spread with great rapidity, and established a very fierce hold. Mr. W. King, who lives at Grange, was also advised of the disaster, and journeyed to Hindmarsh by motor car. The fire, he said, was plainly visible from the sea-side. There was a tremendous column of smoke and flames, but at a distance it resembled a large bonfire.

Among the theories for the origin of the fire one was that it might have spread from the engines, but Mr. W. King said he was satisfied that that was not the case, as the man in charge of them was an old and trusted employe, who was most scrupulously careful, especially in seeing that everything was in order when he locked up for the day.

About 20 members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade took part in keeping the flames in check. Those in charge were Messrs. Plenty (superintendent), E. Wakefield (second in command), and E. Smith (lieutenant). The task was a most difficult one, as a north wind was carrying the flames in the direction of Reid's tannery. Some of the men had a very trying experience from the heat and smoke.



State Library of South Australia - Fire destruction at King James & Son, timber merchants, Hindmarsh, South Australia [PRG 280/1/11/327] Destruction caused by a fire at King James & Son, timber merchants of Richard Street, Hindmarsh, South Australia. Approximately 1912. Part of Searcy Collection.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 10 July 1919, page 7

SECOND EDITION.

A BIG BLAZE.

Damage at Timber Yard.

Shortly before 1 o'clock on Thursday morning a large fire broke out at Hindmarsh in the timber yard of Messrs. James King & Son, timber merchants, sawmills, builders, and ironmongers, of Richard street. The yard contained large stocks of timber which were soon in a blaze, and the damage soon assumed extensive proportions. The premises are near the intersection of Richard and Chapman streets, and next to Reid's tannery, which occupies the corner block. The flames presented a striking spectacle when viewed from the city, and the neighbourhood was brilliantly illuminated. Anxiety was caused owing to the close proximity of the tannery establishment and the dwellings in the immediate locality. The news of the blaze quickly spread, and notwithstanding the hour sightseers hurried to the scene from all directions. The premises cover about one-third of an acre of land, and consist in the main of a two-story galvanized iron structure about 100 ft. by 150 ft., which contained the timber-working machinery and stocks of goods and material in process of manufacture for Government contracts, in which the firm specialized. Behind the principal shed were smaller buildings, including a trap-shed, and these were also demolished. By 1 o'clock it was evident that the largest structure was doomed. The white-hot iron sheets showed like translucent card, and the whole of the interior was a vast blaze. The firemen practically confined their

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11 December 2024

efforts in the endeavour to save the two story brick-and-stone shop and offices of the firm next door, but portions of that building repeatedly got alight. They also devoted particular attention to the buildings of the tannery, and at the time of going to press these did not seem in imminent danger. The principal of the firm, Mr. Frank King (Mayor of Hindmarsh), has associated with him his sons, Messrs. Will King (a well-known, bowler) and Arthur and Albert King. Mr. King, sen., was prostrated by the news of the fire, and had to take to his bed. It is understood that little of the loss is covered by insurance. The extent of the damage could not be ascertained in the early hours of the morning, but it will probably run into several thousands of pounds. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade worked valiantly in their efforts to prevent the flames from spreading, and were successful in confining them to the premises in which they originated.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 11 July 1919, page 8

THE HINDMARSH BLAZE.

PROPERTY NOT INSURED.

Daylight on Thursday revealed the almost total demolition of King & Sons' buildings and their valuable contents at Richard street, Hindmarsh, as a result of the large fire which broke out there shortly before 1 o'clock that morning. Throughout the night and for several hours on Thursday the gallant volunteers worked unceasingly to prevent the flames from spreading to adjoining premises, and they were rewarded with success. All night Reid's tannery— a large, and valuable manufacturing concern was in danger of ignition. In some places the two premises were divided by only a paling fence, which quickly caught alight, but the only other damage to Reid's was the destruction of a small shed and a few of the several bags of by-products which it contained. When the flames were furiously beating around the tannery stables it was discovered that half a dozen horses were housed there, and the firemen were not long in liberating them. It is almost certain that the fire started near the engine-house, in the south-western corner of King and Sons' premises, and having such inflammable material as timber and other light wood to feed upon the flames rushed over the premises with remarkable rapidity, until all within the four corners was total ruin. Only slight damage was done to the stone and brick building in Richard street, on the western side of the timber yard. This was used as an office and storeroom. The latter portion contained paints, wall-papers, tools, and so on, which were only damaged by water.

— Superintendent Plenty Interviewed. —

When interviewed at the scene of the fire on Thursday morning, Superintendent G. J. Plenty, who led the volunteer firemen in their fight against heavy odds, remarked:— "The hooter at the Brompton gasworks sounded at 12.30 a.m., and in response to the call 20 firemen turned out with the motor engine, horse reel, and smaller appliances from a branch station near by. We found the premises well alight, and as it was easily discernible that the fire had been going for some time, there was very little hope of saving anything in the timber yard. However, in quick time we had four lines of hose pouring streams of water on the burning mass. As the fire was strongest in the rear portion of the premises, we made our first entry on the western side of the yard, in an endeavour to prevent the destruction of the front part. The firemen realized that they were up against an almost impossible task, but they fought the flames with untiring energy, and never once relaxed their efforts throughout the night. It was the inflammable material which thwarted our efforts in that direction. We next

concentrated our energy in an endeavour to save the tannery, which was in grave danger. The flames had reached Reid's stables, but, apart from the slight damage done there, I am pleased to say we prevented the spread of the fire beyond the boundaries of the timber yard. It was early realized that there was no hope of saving much for Messrs. King & Son, because the main two-storied premises were packed from floor to ceiling with timber. The saving of the tannery was principally due to the splendid flow of water which we obtained from the 6-in. main recently laid in Torrens street. The firemen worked wonderfully well, but all our efforts would have been of no avail had we not been assisted by a good supply of water."

—An Unfortunate Position.—

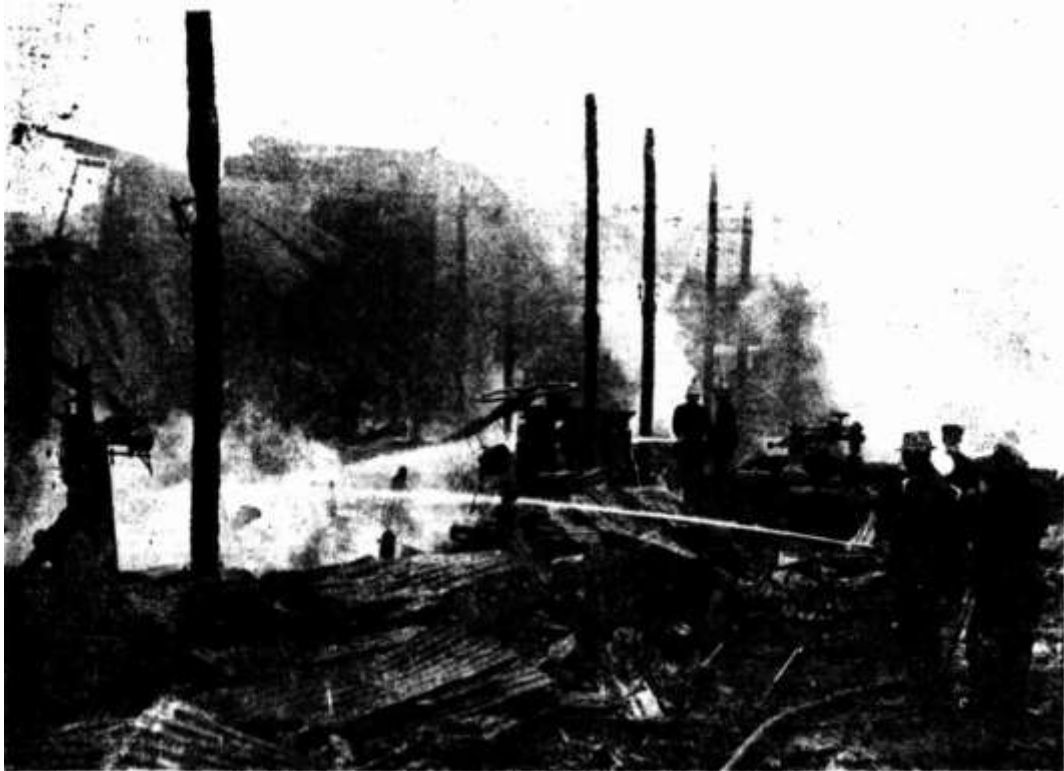
Mr. W. King, a member of the firm, conducted a representative of The Register over the ruins, and pointed out the great loss sustained. The plant which has been destroyed was a valuable one. In addition to a gas producer and engine, and several types of saws, there were numerous machines for lathing, moulding, grinding, morticing, gulleting, and so on. These were worth at least £2,000, and, apart from the engine, which may not be beyond repair, were totally destroyed. The stock, which has all been burned, was worth £2,500. The total demolition of the main building, which was constructed of wood and iron, means a further loss of £2,500. The total damage was, therefore, about £7,000, and not any of it was covered by insurance. Mr. W. King explained that at one time his father used to insure, but the premiums were so heavy for that class of manufactures business that he discontinued it about 20 years ago. The King family are widely known and respected throughout the State and they will receive the sympathy of many in their heavy loss.

— Carrying On.—

Mr. W. King further explained that with the aid of the firm's depot in Mary and Ann street they hoped to be able to carry on in a small way. He said the manufacturing premises would probably be re-modelled in such a way that all the operations would be confined to the ground floor instead of having two storeys as before. Mr. King, sen., who was prostrated by the news of the occurrence, and had to go to bed, showed a slightly improved condition on Thursday evening.

Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924), Wednesday 16 July 1919, page 11

BIG HINDMARSH FIRE.—A SERIOUS LOSS.—WORKS NOT INSURED.



Photograph of the smouldering ruins of the extensive joinery works of Messrs. King & Sons, Richard Street, Hindmarsh, burnt out about midnight last Wednesday. The loss sustained was estimated at £7,000. "Critic" Photo.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 19 July 1919, page 22

ANOTHER FIRE AT KING'S.

At 6.50 a.m. on Sunday, the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was again called to the premises of Messrs. J. King and Sons, timber merchants, Richard street, Hindmarsh, which was almost totally demolished by fire early on Thursday. In molished by fire early on July 10. In men were successful in their efforts to save the two-storied stone building on the western side of the timber yard which was occupied by the firm as offices and store. The stock in the store on that occasion was only slightly damaged. However, some smouldering embers were left in the top story, and on Sunday morning these burst into flame. The brigade soon extinguished the outbreak; but not before a quantity of wallpaper and undertakers' drapings had been destroyed. These had not been removed after Thursday's fire, as it was not thought necessary to unpack them.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Monday 17 November 1919, page 1

A SUNDAY BLAZE

180 Tons of Wood Destroyed

A fire occurred at Kilkenny on Sunday, breaking out at 11.30 a.m. at a brickyard at Welland South, and about 180 tons of wood, the property of Stanley & Lucas, trading under the name of the Designing and Building Company, of Scottish House, Adelaide, was destroyed. The firewood was valued at about £180. The fire, which was extinguished by the Hindmarsh

Volunteer Fire Brigade, was caused by sparks from a brick kiln, which ignited some dry grass. Before sufficient water could be secured, the flames had obtained a good hold on the wood.

1920

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Friday 23 January 1920, page 1

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

About 5.30 p.m. on Thursday the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to a fire at the Hindmarsh Bridge. When the brigade, under Deputy Superintendent Wakefield, arrived the sheet piling was well alight, but for the strenuous efforts of the men the flames were soon subdued.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 16 February 1920, page 9

"A GOOD SAVE."

During the luncheon hour on Wednesday, at Messrs. Frearson's Printing Works, in Adam street, Hindmarsh, a fire broke out in the works above the gas producer, but, owing to the prompt action of Deputy Superintendent E. Wakefield and two other members of the local volunteer fire brigade, who were in the vicinity, a serious conflagration was averted.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 27 February 1920, page 8

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

HIGH PRAISE FROM THE MAYOR.

Members of the Hindmarsh Town Council visited the local volunteer fire brigade on Wednesday evening. After an inspection of the men on parade by the mayor (Mr. G. A. Noble), matters of vital interest were discussed. The Mayor said the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was the best volunteer brigade in the Commonwealth. Their work was highly appreciated by the townspeople, from whom they had unswerving loyalty. The council means to fight for the liberties and privileges to which the brigade were justly entitled. Aldermen Murphy and Hallett endorsed what the mayor had said. Superintendent G. J. Plenty said the men found great pleasure in doing their work. He hoped the council would visit them more frequently.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 27 February 1920, page 5

H.V.F.B. INSPECTED.

The members of the Hindmarsh Council paid a visit of inspection to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade Station on Wednesday evening. They were met by Superintendent Plenty and the officers, and shown over the building. The appliances for fire fighting were closely examined, and appreciation of the excellent means at the disposal of the brigade was expressed. The physique and general appearance of the men created a favourable impression. They were assembled and addressed by the Mayor (Mr. G. A. Noble), who said he could see that they were in the pink of condition, and were capable of holding their own with any other body of volunteer fire fighters. He considered that the brigade was the best-equipped and most up-to-date volunteer fire brigade in the Commonwealth. He knew of the good work they had accomplished, but they had not received the recognition which was due to them. He felt sure that the brigade had the loyal support of the townspeople, and he

would do his utmost in fighting for its liberties. On behalf of the council he expressed his admiration of the excellent bearing and good comrade-ship which existed, and congratulated the officers on having such a fine body of men under their control. Ald. Murphy said Hindmarsh and the local brigade, were inseparably linked together. The council would, under no consideration, countenance giving away the brigade's privileges. They were jealous of the good work done, and in any attempt made to curtail the brigade's effort, the members of the council would do their best to help the firefighters. Ald. Hallett had pleasant recollections of his connection with the brigade, and considered the town was fortunate to have such an excellent body. Superintendent Plenty said the officers and men appreciated the visit, and he would like to see more frequent visits from representative bodies to the station. To demonstrate the smartness of the men in turning out to a fire, the Mayor gave a call out from the Port road alarm, and the motor arrived on the spot in 1m. 10s., the horse reel following 54 seconds later. An adjournment was then made to the Mayor's parlour, where light refreshments were served.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 5 March 1920, page 13

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

At a social gathering in the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade recreation hall on Wednesday evening, Superintendent G. J. Plenty presented a bar of 25 years' service to First-Lieutenant S. C. Hocking, a bar each for 15 years' service to Foreman P. G. Hocking and Fireman A. Harley, and a five years' certificate to Fireman J. V. Incoll. He said Deputy Superintendent G. Wakefield had 27½ years' service. Auxiliary Fireman J. Harley 29½ Lieutenant E. Smith, 19; Auxiliary Fireman Laeney, 14; Fireman A. Miller. A. Battersby, J. Hooker, and Ferris, each 14 years; and Fireman P. Miller. 11 years. The superintendent has completed 21½ years' service. There were 12 members with 10 years' service or more. The high state of efficiency for which the brigade is noted was maintained during the year.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Friday 5 March 1920, page 1

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

At 3.40 on Friday morning the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to the building used by Messrs. J. Richardson, plumber, and J. Hooker, bicycle maker, Ann street, Hindmarsh. The premises, which are of wood and iron, adjoins the two-story dwelling occupied by Mr. Hooker, and they were well ablaze when the brigade was summoned by the occupants of the house next door. Superintendent G. J. Plenty, his officers, and about 20 firemen were soon on the scene, and their efforts kept the flames from spreading. The fire eventually was got under control. It had evidently started near to the forge in the plumber's shop, and partially destroyed the building (which is not insured), and damaged the contents. Owing to the prompt work of the brigade a serious conflagration was averted.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 3 April 1920, page 10

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade held their annual demonstration on Friday. A bowling match was played on the local rinks in the morning. Dinner was served in the fire station. Superintendent G. J. Plenty proposed the toast of "The visitors." The Mayor (Mr. G. A. Noble) congratulated the men on their work. The secretary (Mr. E. W. McNiece) submitted "Kindred brigades," to which Superintendent Philips (Woodville Volunteer Brigade) responded.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 9 April 1920, page 7

CASUALTIES.

FIRE IN A PUGHOLE.

On Thursday morning the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade were called to a blaze in a pughole at the rear of Mr. Prime's woodyard, in Drayton street, Bowden. The prompt arrival of the brigade, under Superintendent Plenty, prevented the flames from spreading to the stacks of wood nearby.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 14 August 1920, page 7

A SMALL FIRE.

At about 4 p.m. on Friday the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to a blaze in the West Torrens Co-operative Bakery, First street, Brompton. The flames were extinguished by the use of a small hose belonging to the premises and a few buckets of water. The fire was caused by a piece of cloth over an oven catching alight and spreading to a matchboard ceiling, which suffered damage to the extent of about £5.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 18 August 1920, page 2

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

HINDMARSH.

August 16.

A deputation from the local branch of the A.N.A urged the council to secure an ambulance for the town. The mayor promised that the matter would receive sympathetic consideration, and as the superintendent of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade wanted a motor ambulance, he would advise that the question be considered by the three bodies.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 19 August 1920, page 5

OLD-TIME MEMORIES.

"Veteran" Writes:—[...]

The destruction of a roof at King's timber yard last Sunday evening has stirred up memories of the past. About 1855 there was a destructive fire at C. J. Crawford's mill at Hindmarsh, which caused an explosion of the boiler. It was wrenched from its setting, blown about 150 yards into Mr. Jarvis's garden, and landed near where King's shed lately stood. There were no fire brigades in those days, nor any waterworks; but to provide against fire, Crawford had a manual fire engine, which would be manned by about 20 men on either side. After the fire the willing workers paraded through the district with it, not forgetting a halt at each public house, where they indulged in a "sheaoak ball" at the expense of the general public. At Magarey's mill there was another manual engine which I saw some years ago at the Hindmarsh Fire Station.

[...]

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 15 September 1920, page 13

MOTOR AMBULANCE FOR HINDMARSH.

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11 December 2024

A conference of members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, the Hindmarsh Council, and representatives of the local branch of the Australian Natives' Association was held in the local town hall to consider the advisableness of procuring a motor ambulance for the district. The Mayor (Mr. G. A. Noble) presided, and explained the object of the meeting. After discussion it was resolved: —"That this meeting affirm the desirableness of securing a motor ambulance for the town." It was also decided "That this conference requests the corporation to subsidise the maintenance of the ambulance of the annual cost to the extent of not more than £50." Superintendent G. J. Plenty, on behalf of the Fire Brigade, stated that it would be prepared to guarantee the storage, supervision, and running order of the motor. The President of the local branch of the A.N.A. stated that his association would be prepared to supply two squads, equal to eight fully qualified first-aid men, to work in conjunction with the fire brigade. It was decided to have enquiries made regarding the cost of a suitable motor. The Mayor suggested obtaining the services of the D.T.N.S. for collecting purposes. It was decided.—"That those present form themselves into a committee, and that a public meeting be convened by the Town Clerk, and the co-operation of public bodies, friendly societies, and general public be requested to raise funds for purchase." It was subsequently stated that two donations of 50 guineas each had been promised, and the council had agreed to subsidize the maintenance cost of £50 per annum.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Monday 27 September 1920, page 1

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT CROYDON.

About 2 p.m. on Saturday the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade attended a fire at the rear of the Adelaide Rope, Nail, and Barbwire Works, Croydon. The outbreak, in a heap of old flax and other debris, was soon subdued.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 6 October 1920, page 8

CASUALTIES.

SMALL FIRE AT BROMPTON.

At about 9.30 o'clock on Tuesday night the Hindmarsh Voluntary Fire Brigade were called to an outbreak at Mr. W. J. George's residence, at West street, Brompton. A boy named Roland Hooper, when passing the house, noticed flames issuing from a front room. He gave the alarm, and then returned to the place, and, with the assistance of a step-son of the owner, partly subdued the fire by means of buckets of water. The brigade arrived shortly afterwards, and completely extinguished the blaze. The resultant damage has not yet been estimated.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 22 November 1920, page 9

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

FIRE AT A BREWERY.

A fire occurred on Saturday night in the liquor boiler room of Haussen's brewery, Hindmarsh. The Volunteer Fire Brigade extinguished the flames. Damage estimated at £100 was done to the bulk and iron room and three barrels of oil.



State Library of South Australia - Haussen Brewery, Hindmarsh [PRG 631/2/346-347], Views of the Haussen Brewery in Hindmarsh. 1911. Photographer, Ernest Gall. Part of Hindmarsh Collection.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 22 November 1920, page 6

FIRES AND A GOOD SAVE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade had three calls on Saturday, but to only minor conflagrations. At about a quarter to 8 in the evening it was summoned to Featherstone place, off Gawler place, Adelaide, to the premises of Dobbie & Co., where an oil engine and a number of oil barrels were damaged. Previously, the firemen had attended outbreaks in Young street, Parkside, and Waymouth street, Adelaide. A fire of more serious possibilities occurred at Haussen's Brewery, Richard street, Hindmarsh, at five minutes to 10 on Saturday night. Damage to the extent of about £100 was done to the liquor boiling room, but the department next to it accommodated more inflammable contents, and the effective work of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade, consisting of 23 men under Deputy Superintendent Wakefield, prevented the spread of the flames. It was considered to be "a good save." There was a gang of men employed at the brewery at the time of the fire.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Tuesday 7 December 1920, page 1

FIRE AT BROMPTON.

Doll's Factory Destroyed.

Late on Monday night, the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to a fire in Brompton. It was discovered that a one-roomed building, used for the manufacture of dolls, was well ablaze. The building was completely gutted, and the contents were destroyed. The building was of wood and iron, with a brick front, and was the property of the Methodist Church. It was insured in the Methodist Conference Insurance Fund for £400. The contents were insured with the United Insurance Company for £300. The damage is estimated at £1,000. Mr. S. H. Hook, the manager, states that he left the factory at 6 o'clock and he had no idea how the fire originated.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 13 December 1920, page 8

CASUALTIES.

SMALL FIRES.

A series of small fires occurred during the weekend. On Saturday afternoon, at about 5 o'clock, the Thebarton brigade was called to extinguish a blaze at a rubbish tip, situated on the West Thebarton road. At about 11 o'clock on Sunday morning a grass fire occurred in Messrs. Elder, Smith, and Co., Limited's, paddock at Mile-End. A jarrah shed, containing about a ton and a half of wood, the property of Mr. L. K. Ward, of Burnside road, became alight on Sunday afternoon, about 3 o'clock, and both the shed and its contents were destroyed. At about 8.30 o'clock on Sunday evening a small chimney stack of a rubbish destructor at the Adelaide Rope Works, Croydon, caught alight. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called out, and the flames were soon extinguished.

1921



State library of South Australia - Fire Brigade Horse [B 35052]. "Duncan" - a horse used by the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade in the early nineteen twenties. The horse was named after James Duncan, the Superintendent of the H.V.F.B., 1900-12. Reproduction permission required from the donor; see Library Staff. Approximately 1921. Part of Hindmarsh Collection.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 8 February 1921, page 5

A MIDNIGHT FIRE.

BROMPTON CHAFFMILL GUTTED.

In the first moments of this morning an alarm of fire was given from the neighbourhood of the extensive chaffmills owned by Messrs. Hocking Bros., and situated at Third street, Brompton. When the flames were first seen the structure— a two-story brick-and-iron building — was well alight. As there seemed little chance of saving the mill the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade confined their attention to preventing the spread of the blaze to a terrace of attached dwellings, the nearest of which was about 10 yards away. The fence of one of the houses caught alight, but the fire men promptly extinguished the flames. The brigade, which responded promptly to the call, performed admirable work. When The Register went to press the chaffmill was in full blaze, and was apparently doomed.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 8 February 1921, page 1

FIRE AT BROMPTON.

The chaffmills belonging to Messrs. Hocking Bros., in West and Third streets, Brompton, were destroyed by fire shortly after midnight on Monday. Twenty tons of hay, in addition to a large quantity of chaff, bran, and pollard, were consumed. A trolley was destroyed, and the mill machinery was damaged. Willing workers saved the contents of the office and helped to get the horses out or harm's way. The origin of the outbreak is unknown, but Mr. S. Hocking thinks it may have been caused by an intruder seeking rest in the hay, for everything was safe when he left the premises at 5.30 p.m. The damage exceeded £2,000. The premises were insured for £770 in the Federal Mutual Fire Insurance Office. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade did good work, but they had to contend with an inadequate water supply, concerning which many bitter complaints have been made.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Tuesday 8 February 1921, page 1

BROMPTON FIRE.

DAMAGE, £2,000.

Poor Water Pressure.

Alleged Unlawful Possession

When the scene of the fire at Hocking Brothers' chaffmill in Third street, Brompton, was visited on Tuesday morning it was found that only the three brick walls were left standing. The blaze was first observed by Mr. Walter Hocking, a cousin of the sole proprietor, Mr. Sydney C. Hocking, at a few minutes after midnight. He immediately ran to a fire alarm, and the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was quickly on the spot. The sounding of the "hooter" at the gas works drew a large crowd of residents to the fire. When the brigade, under Deputy-Superintendent E. Wakefield, arrived the flames had secured a good hold on the building, and it was soon realized that there was no hope of saving it. Spectators worked willingly in removing some of the contents of the office. The structure, which was of wood, iron, and brick, was completely gutted, and on Tuesday Mr. Hocking stated that, in addition, two tons of chaff, 20 tons of hay, 4 tons of bran, and 1½ tons of pollard had been destroyed by fire. The machinery, including a gas engine, elevators, grindstone, and crushers, had been considerably damaged. Mr. Hocking remarked that he had no idea how the fire originated. The machinery was stopped at 3.30, so there was no danger of sparks emanating from the engine. He locked up at 5.30 p.m., and everything was then in good order. The only way he could account for the fire was that some one must have got into the place to sleep, and a lighted match ignited some of the fodder. The blaze began some distance from where the machinery was installed. He estimated the damage at about £2,000. The building, stock, and plant were insured in the Federal Mutual Insurance Company for £770. Mr. Hocking said the members of the Hindmarsh Brigade performed excellent work, considering the difficulties which faced them owing to a "very poor water pressure."

—The Water Supply.—

Strong comments were made at the fire regarding the inadequate supply of water, which greatly hampered the efforts of the firemen. Speaking to a reporter after the fire, Mr. E. W. Niece (secretary of the brigade) stated that the District Turncock, who was called from his home at Gover street, North Adelaide, had informed him that it was impossible to secure a stronger pressure, as there was only a 3-in. main in each street, and he believed they were corroded. He also ventured the opinion that, in the event of a large conflagration in

Brompton or Bowden, the firemen would not be able to combat the flames, in view of the poor water supply.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 12 February 1921, page 8

FIRE AT A BRICKYARD.

About 5 o'clock on Friday the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to a fire at Messrs. Knapman and Burns's brickworks at Ridleyton. The brigade, under Deputy-Superintendent, E. Wakefield, turned out in full force. A wood-and-iron shed was destroyed, and part of a stack of wood burnt.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Saturday 26 February 1921, page 3

SMALL FIRE AT BOWDEN.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade were called to a fire at Bowden about 2.30 this morning. The brigade, under Mr. S. Hocking, found a wood-and-iron shed adjacent to premises of Mr. Hanly, of Bowden, alight. The shed was partly destroyed, and the contents, including clothing and a quantity of wood, were burned. The premises were owned by Mr. Holmes, of Hindmarsh.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 26 March 1921, page 5

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade reserves Good Friday for its annual demonstration. The gathering this year was well attended. In the morning a four-rink bowling match was played on the Hindmarsh Club's rinks, between teams selected from the brigade. Dinner, which had been prepared by the firemen, was served in the fire station, and a detachment of the men waited at the tables. Superintendent G. J. Plenty presided. When the loyal toast had been honoured, the Chairman submitted "The visitors," and specially welcomed Capt. W. A. Francis, of the Mildura (Victoria) Volunteer Fire Brigade, and the Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. G. A. Noble). The Mayor, in reply, said the brigade was always ready to help in raising funds for worthy objects. He thought it the champion fund raiser of the district. Mr. Noble referred to the motor ambulance project, which would shortly be an accomplished act, and said he hoped it would be housed in the precincts of the fire station. He had received enquiries from Port Adelaide and Unley in reference to the method adopted in securing the ambulance, and he felt justly proud of the fact that Hindmarsh had taken the lead in that respect, as they had done in forming the fire brigade. Messrs. R. J. Holiday and P. N. Wood also spoke. The secretary (Mr. E. W. McNiece) proposed "Kindred brigades." Capt. Francis, in acknowledging the toast, said he was a native of the district, and after an absence of 27 years, felt honoured to take part in their function. "The Recreation Club" was proposed by Mr. R. J. Holiday; and Mr. E. W. McNiece replied. Musical items were rendered by Messrs. V. Lewis, A. Ronchetti, and Uren. During the afternoon various amusements were indulged in, and "the crocodile pull" was much enjoyed. Tea was provided, and a social evening spent.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 6 April 1921, page 3

FIRE AT BROMPTON.

Early on Tuesday morning the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to the grocery store of Mr. E. Litchfield, at the corner of First and Pickering streets. Brompton Park.

The alarm was sounded at 5.45 a.m., and all the members of the brigade turned out promptly. A motor reel was dispatched to the scene under Superintendent G. J. Plenty. The fire was quickly extinguished. The flames had got a hold on the wood work in the shop, the counter, and part of the flooring, and had reached the stock. The damage is assessed at about £500. The premises were insured in the W.A. Insurance Company. It is not known how the fire started.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 9 May 1921, page 3

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER MOTOR AMBULANCE.

The Hindmarsh volunteer motor ambulance is to be housed in a building to be erected along-side the fire brigade station, which is near the local oval. On Saturday a "working bee" made good progress with the new building. The ambulance will be handed over to the town on June 23 by Lady Weigall.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 20 May 1921, page 4

HINDMARSH MOTOR AMBULANCE.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Motor Ambulance Committee held a meeting in the Hindmarsh Town Hall on Tuesday night. The secretary (Mr. G. Comley) stated that, including the sale of souvenir matchboxes, the nett proceeds of the recent West Torrens A and B football match had been £23. The garage for the ambulance had been about half finished by the voluntary workers. It was decided to hold a gala day. Ald. J. D. Brown, Superintendent G. J. Plenty (fire brigade), and Mr. A. W. Baker were appointed a committee to make the arrangements.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 23 June 1921, page 6

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE.

Hindmarsh during recent years has made considerable development, and now claims to be the chief manufacturing district of the State. Since the wood blocking of the Port road, traffic has increased to such an extent that at almost any time of the day a continuous stream of vehicles is in progress on the thoroughfare. Naturally, with such a volume of traffic, dangers are increased, and a necessary institution has been brought into being by the establishment of an up-to-date volunteer motor ambulance. Volunteers have readily come forward to man this equipment, and before long it is expected that a fully competent and trained body of men will be available to relieve suffering by expeditious and up-to-date treatment. The superintendent of the local fire brigade had had the question before him for some years, but financial considerations always prevented the accomplishment of the object. The Hindmarsh branch of the A.N.A. took the matter up after two fatal accidents in the town, and as a result of a citizens' meeting, convened by the Mayor (Mr. G. A. Noble), a strong committee was appointed to raise the necessary funds. A scheme was drawn up, which sought to enlist the sympathy of all employers and employes in the town and neighbourhood. Employers and employes supported the movement, and the fund increased to such an extent that the committee deemed it safe to complete the purchase of an up-to-date ambulance at a cost of £535. Further appeals were made for material and labour, and the brickmakers of the district supplied the bricks free. Mr. J. H. Foote was appointed clerk of works, and being a practical builder, helped considerably in the work. Willing hands laid the bricks on Saturday afternoons, and a neat building resulted. All classes of tradesmen gave their services, as plumbers, plasterers, painters, carpenters, and so on. It was an inspiring sight to see the

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11 December 2024

willing workers. All furnishings were given, and an assortment of blankets was presented by a company, whose works are in the neighbourhood of the ambulance site. Two volunteers will be in attendance through the night. Mr. G. J. Comley was appointed hon. secretary at the inaugural meeting, and has since been appointed as permanent hon. secretary. He has displayed splendid organizing ability, and has devoted considerable time and energy to make the scheme a success. He and Mr. Foote have been present almost every evening, and on Saturday afternoons, on the work, during building operations. Superintendent G. J. Plenty has acted helpfully as hon. treasurer. The movement will be consummated on Saturday afternoon, when Lady Weigall is expected to perform the opening ceremony. Special effort will be made by the sale of buttons and a collection to raise the sum necessary to provide the running costs for a few months, until the management committee can get down to a working basis. It has been a creditable performance for Hindmarsh, and one that will no doubt be followed by other municipalities.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 27 June 1921, page 7

HINDMARSH MOTOR AMBULANCE. OPENED BY LADY WEIGALL.

There was a large attendance at Hindmarsh on Saturday, when Lady Weigall officially opened the garage and started the Hindmarsh volunteer motor ambulance. There was a good display of bunting, and on the platform was a one show of pot-plants. The members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, whose station adjoins the ambulance garage, formed a guard of honour, and musical selections were rendered by the local brass band. The garage is of brick and iron, comprises two apartments, and has been gratuitously and taste-fully furnished. Electric light has been installed throughout. The larger room is 20 ft. by 12 ft., and will house the car, and the 12 ft. by 12 ft. room, at the rear, will provide sleeping accommodation for the two volunteers, who will be in attendance every night. The car has the words "Hindmarsh Volunteer Ambulance" painted on each side. It was built by the Murray Auger Company, who installed a number of special conveniences free of cost.

—Generous Help.—

The Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. G. A. Noble) said it was an honour to have Lady Weigall present, and he had much pleasure in extending to her, in behalf of the citizens, a most cordial welcome on her first official visit to the town. The movement successfully finalized that day was the out-come of a meeting of citizens held after the Hindmarsh branch of the A.N.A. had discussed the question, following upon two fatal accidents in the district. The whole hearted support of all sections of the community had been given to the project, and, as a result of the committee's early efforts, sufficient funds were available to complete the purchase of the car. To house the motor was the next question to be considered, and through the generosity of the business firms approached the whole of the material for the building and the furnishing were obtained, and a large band of willing workers spent their evenings and Saturday afternoons on the work. The garage, car, and organization were a credit to the district. He said he had much pleasure in asking Lady Weigall to declare the garage open and to start the car. (Applause)

—A Worthy Achievement.—

Lady Weigall said it was a privilege to be present. She congratulated the town on its public spiritedness. The achievement was one that spoke for itself, and it would help to alleviate distress by having at first hand up-to-date equipment. It was an example at that could well

be followed by others. She had much pleasure in declaring the garage open. Lady Weigall then stepped on to the car, and in company with Fireman H. J. Hall, and to the accompaniment of cheers, drove out of the building and through several of the streets.

—Thanks.—

Ald. J. D. Brown, in moving a vote of thanks to Lady Weigall, referred to some of her kindly actions, and added that even if she could not be an active member of the ambulance she could at least be an honorary one. Mr. J. McInnes, M.P., seconded the motion, which was carried with acclamation. The Rev. T. H. Frewin thanked the donors for their support, and Mr. G. Comley expressed appreciation for the services of the voluntary workers. Afternoon tea was served in the bowling green tearooms. At half-time in the football match the car was driven around the oval, and a practical demonstration by squad of ambulance workers was also given.

—A Presentation.—

At the afternoon tea Mr. L. A. Grafe asked Lady Weigall to accept, in behalf of her daughter Priscilla, a pedigreed Australian terrier, named Clipper of Hindmarsh, and the presentation was taken over with much appreciation.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 2 July 1921, page 26

THE HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE.

OPENED BY LADY WEIGALL. Krischock, photos. By voluntary effort a motor ambulance and station have been provided at Hindmarsh. Money was given freely for the purchase of the new 'Dort' car, with ambulance body, and the material and labour in connection with the erection of a suitable building for the housing of the appliances were contributed without cost. On Saturday afternoon the opening ceremony took place, and was attended by Lady Weigall. The ambulance is situated next to the fire brigade station, and both buildings were lavishly decorated with bunting and red, white, and blue ribbon and rosettes.



The pictures above:— 1. The new ambulance. 2. Lady Weigall opens the door of the garage. 3 and 4. Sections of the crowd. 5. Lady Weigall addressing the assemblage.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 19 July 1921, page 1

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

Officers Honored.

A pleasing ceremony occurred on Monday at Hindmarsh, when members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade and the local town council assembled at the fire station, to honor Deputy-Superintendent E. Wakefield. The superintendent (Mr. G. J. Plenty), who presided, referred in eulogistic terms to Mr. Wakefield's long and faithful service to the town as an officer and fireman of the brigade. Mr. Wakefield joined the brigade on July 6, 1892.

During the 29 years, to July 6 of this year the brigade had received 294 calls, and their deputy had turned out to 196 of them. From January 1, 1897, to July 6, 1921, there had been 1,261 weekly parades, and Mr. Wakefield had attended 1,044. During his 23 years' service he had only been absent for eleven weeks, owing to sickness. He had served as fireman for eight years, and for the remaining 21 years he had been an officer. He was promoted to deputy superintendent on January 1, 1909. The Mayor (Mr. G. A. Noble), Aldermen G. Wright, R. J. Holiday, and First Lieutenant S. Hocking, and Second Lieutenant E. Smith also spoke. The Mayor made a handsome presentation, on behalf of the brigade to Mr. Wakefield. Opportunity was also taken to present bars to Lieu-tenant Smith and Fireman C. Ferris for 20 years and 15 years' service respectively, and a medal to Fireman W. H.

Drummond for ten years' service. Musical items were given by Messrs. G. Foreman, P. G. Hocking, and Fireman A. Miller.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 6 October 1913, page 5

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Fire Brigades Bill before Parliament has caused uneasiness at Hindmarsh lest the local volunteer fire brigade would be wiped out, and the inauguration of the new first-aid motor fire reel on Saturday afternoon was made the occasion for a display of the equipment, under the charge of Superintendent G. J. Plenty. The demonstration took place in Milner-street, Hindmarsh. but prior to this the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Brown). Aldermen King and Wood. Councillors, Nieass, Hooper, Holiday. Martin, McBurnie. and the Hons. F. S. Wallis and E. L. W. Klauer, and Mr. T. Green, M.P.. and a large number of people assembled at the central station in Hindmarsh-place.

The Mayor said he was pleased, on behalf of the local town council, to hand over to the fire brigade the new motor fire reel, which was a valuable asset, for general use for the benefit of the town in case of fire, and he was glad to hear from Superintendent Plenty that the firemen had already become efficient in handling it. The fire brigade had done a great deal in assisting the council to get the motor. The council were at a low ebb financially, and the brigade said "We can raise the money for the motor."

The brigade had done that, with some assistance from the council, and he hoped the reel would long be in the possession of the volunteer fire brigade. He mentioned that the brigade had been given money by large firms as an acknowledgment of services rendered at fires, and, instead of dividing it amongst themselves, as they could have done, they had voluntarily passed it into the account of the brigade, and they were to be commended for their self-sacrifice. It was nearly 29 years since the first meeting was called to take into consideration the advisability of forming a volunteer fire brigade in Hindmarsh for the protection of the town. It was held in the council chamber, and ex-Mayor Dr. J. Rees occupied the chair, and about 30 residents were present. At a later meeting held in Messrs. T. King & Son's office the brigade, comprising eight men. was formed. An appeal was made to the ratepayers for funds, and within a short time nearly £100 was collected. The corporation added £20, and the brigade purchased the first appliances. The formal opening of the brigade took place on February 29, 1885. Superintendent Salter, of the Adelaide brigade, took the men in hand, and thoroughly instructed them in all branches of fire-fighting. He was so satisfied with the local firemen that at one time, when there was trouble with the permanent firemen, he requested that some of them should take charge of the old Light-square station in Adelaide at night-time. This the men agreed to do, and for some considerable time staffed that station. The first reel used by the brigade was sold comparatively recently to the Crystal Brook Volunteer Brigade. The first station was situated next to the Land of Promise Hotel, Port-road. Hindmarsh, the land on which it stood being leased from Mr. J. C. Mitton at a pepper-corn rental. The first alarm was given by the hooter at the S.A. Company's Gas Works on October 5, 1885, when the brigade received a call to a fire at Messrs. Tamlin & Coombe's ropeworks (now the Adelaide Steam Rope works). In April, 1891, the council then in office offered the brigade the use of the present head station on Lindsay-circus Oval, which till then had been used as a day-school and lecture-hall. Historically it was known as "Playford's Church" from the fact that the father of the Hon. T. Playford was the preacher. The station was up-to-date in every respect. There were seven

alarms, situated in various parts of the municipality, connected with the head station. Two men slept on the premises at night, and a couple were always on duty on holidays and Sundays. The men had a recreation-room, and had just completed an up-to-date lavatory and bath-room. Trades of all kinds were represented in the composition of the brigade, and the men took a real live interest in keeping their station and all about it spick and span. They met on Wednesday evenings to clean up, inspect the various alarms about the town, and drill. They were a very happy family. Prior to becoming a member of the brigade a man had to undergo a strict medical examination, and thus only the physically fit were admitted. There was keen rivalry among the young men of Hindmarsh as to who could become members. The horse reel, built in 1893 by a member of the brigade, was still as good as new, and was in active use. Recently a young horse had been purchased, and had been thoroughly trained. The men gave their services absolutely free, and their time, inclusive of holidays and Sundays. The Hindmarsh Council subsidises the brigade to the extent of £60 per annum, and fire underwriters £50. There were five branch stations in different parts of the town, where hose-carts and several hundreds of feet of hose were stored, so as to be handy in case of fire in the neighborhood. The total plant was valued at nearly £800, and included 4,100 ft. of hose. At present the brigade was 26 strong, all picked men, thoroughly conversant with the work of fire-fighting, and ready to meet every emergency. The loyalty of the men was proved by their length of service. Chief-Officer (Super-intendent) George J. Plenty had been connected with the brigade for 17 years; Deputy Superintendent E. Wakefield had done 21 years' service; First-Lieutenant S. E. Hocking, 19 years; Second-Lieutenant E. Smith 13 years; Foreman P. G. Hocking, 9 years; and the secretary and treasurer (Mr. C. H. Rosenhain). 6 years. Over 20 members had seen five years' service. A practical illustration of the celerity with which the brigade responded when the alarm has been given was afforded when a surprise call was sprung upon them recently. In three minutes the reel and half a dozen men, under Second-Lieutenant Smith, had travelled a mile from the head station and were ready for action. The best-equipped brigade in Australia could not impose upon them. The turnout was witnessed by a number of citizens. Mr. W. Richards, a leading business man. afterwards remarked that from a manufacturer's business man's, or private citizen's point of view the organisation was invaluable, and serving of the hearty support of all classes. The brigade had had built at Messrs. Murray Aunger's an up-to-date motor reel at a cost of between £300 and £400, and this was one of the most up-to-date of its kind in Australia. In such a populous suburb as Hindmarsh the motor should prove of great value.

The Hon. F. S. Wallis said he had felt it his duty to be present, and consequently had put off other engagements, inclusive of a trip to the Murray, and the reason was that in view of the consolidating Fire Brigades Bill now before Parliament he desired to see the Hind-marsh Fire Brigade. He knew that the people of Hindmarsh were much interested in the Bill, especially clause 36, which afforded an opportunity to deal with volunteer fire brigades, as under recommendation any volunteer fire brigade could be absorbed into the general scheme. The efficiency of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade would be a guarantee for its continuance as such, and he mentioned that the Chief Secretary and the Government were quite satisfied that the local brigade were quite able to deal with conflagrations. He hoped the brigade would continue in the same efficient condition for many years.

Mr. T. Green, M.P., expressed approval of what he had seen of the brigade, and was satisfied that it would be able successfully to combat fires. The best of service generally was that

done voluntarily, as men threw themselves into the vortex of flames, and said, "Here am I." and what they did was done with all their might.

The Hon. E. L. W. Klauer complimented the brigade on their efficiency, and remarked that it must be realised that at some time when volunteers were not available the firemen would be paid and the brigade become permanent.

Alderman King referred to the self-sacrificing labors of the local firemen. It was admitted that the brigade were up to-date, and had the Chief Secretary been present he would have been fully convinced that it would not be necessary to enforce clause 36 of the Fire Brigades Bill so far as the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade were concerned. Alderman Wood hoped that the objectionable clause in the Bill would be struck out. He said, "We'll back our brigade against any permanent brigade you can bring along."

The Mayor asked Superintendent Plenty to accept the new motor reel and to drive him and the secretary of the brigade (Mr. H. C. Rosenhain) and Councillor Nieass for a ride, and this was done later. Superintendent Plenty expressed thanks, and acknowledged the assistance given by the town council and donors in raising the necessary funds to pay for the motor reel.

The brigade turned out to Milner-street, where a demonstration took place. Subsequently afternoon tea was taken in the bowling club's tearoom.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 25 October 1921, page 6

WOOD STACK ON FIRE.

About 1 o'clock on Monday, the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to a blaze at the Monarch Laundry, Eighth street, Bowden. A stack of wool valued at £25 was found to be alight. An emergency hand reel, which is housed in the vicinity, was soon on the scene, and was quickly followed by the motor equipment. The flames were rapidly got under control, and the resultant damage was only slight.

1922

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 2 January 1922, page 9

CASUALTIES.

SMALL GRASS FIRE.

At about 8.30 o'clock on Saturday evening a grass fire broke out on a vacant allotment in Princess street, Croydon. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade were summoned, but the outbreak, which was not serious, was allowed to burn out.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 7 January 1922, page 6

FALSE FIRE ALARMS.

The members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade are to be commended for their promptness in turning out in all weathers, without fee or reward, to alarms of fire. Just before 6 p.m. on Thursday, on the sounding of the hooter, the men turned out smartly with the motor and horse reel in response to what proved to be a false alarm. On Friday morning another alarm was given, and notwithstanding the heavy rain which was falling, a number of the men who are employed in the vicinity of the station, left their work, and manned the

motor and horse reel, but on arriving at the scene of the supposed outbreak no fire was found. It is supposed that the wires had become entangled, and caused the shutters to simultaneously drop at the fire station and gasworks, from which the hooter is sounded.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Wednesday 8 February 1922, page 1

FIRE AT NEW HINDMARSH.

Dwelling Partly Destroyed.

At about 1.15 a.m. on Wednesday the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to a blaze in New Hindmarsh. The fire was in a house owned and occupied by Mr. W. Taylor, bootmaker. The building, a four-roomed corner structure, facing Young avenue, was of brick, stone, and iron, and a galvanized iron room at the rear of the premises, was used as a workroom by Mr. Taylor, who stated that he was sleeping outside, and no idea how the fire originated, or who gave the alarm, said the place was not insured. When the brigade received the call, the house was well alight, and, on arrival, it was found impossible to save the contents. Work was concentrated on the building, which, however, was partly destroyed. The house is valued at £600.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 13 February 1922, page 6

HOAXING A FIRE BRIGADE.

The members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade have been annoyed recently by several false alarms having been given by the breaking of street fire alarms.

When the alarm bell is rung shutters at the fire station and at the Brompton Gas works drop simultaneously, and the "hooter" at the latter place then sends forth certain sounds to denote the locality of the alarm, which gives any fireman who does not happen to be near the station the opportunity of proceeding to the part of the town indicated. The superintendent of the brigade is Mr. G. J. Plenty. Lieut. E. Smith stated that just after 10 o'clock on Friday night the hooter sounded an alarm, but as no shutter dropped at the station the men there manned the motor reel and rode to the gasworks, where the caretaker informed them that he had received a telephone message asking him to call the brigade to a fire in New Hindmarsh. The men went to that part of the town, but failed to find any trace of a conflagration. Twenty-seven men turned out at the call. Enquiries from the Telephone Department elicited the information that the message to the Gas Company was sent through a public telephone.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 25 February 1922, page 2

A BIG BLAZE

THREE HAYSTACKS DESTROYED.

FIERCE OUTBREAK AT FINDON

The reflection of a big fire in a north-westerly direction was seen from the city to-night, and enquiries were made concerning its location even from the hills, from the eminence of which a clear view was obtained of the blaze.

It transpired that three large haystacks belonging to Mr. J. Dyer, a dairyman, of Crittenden Road, Findon, were the centre of the conflagration. The fire, which broke out about 8.30,

raged fiercely for two hours, when it was got under control by members of the Woodville and Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigades, assisted by a number of civilians, who fought the flames with great determination. The haystacks were situated between the premises of Mr. Dyer and Mrs. G. E. Toogood, and the firemen arrived just in time to save a large hayshed, the property of Mrs. Toogood. The haystacks contained 80 tons of sheafed and between 40 and 50 tons of loose hay, valued at more than £200. They were insured for £117. Mr. Dyer was at his shop at Alberton at the time of the outbreak, the cause of which he was unable to state. The Woodville Brigade was in charge of Capt. Guyner, and that from Hindmarsh was in command of Capt. Smith. Although the locality of the fire was three miles from the Hindmarsh Station and outside of its fire zone the brigade did not hesitate to turn out to lend assistance. Constables Daly and Opie, of the Woodville and Kilkenny Police Stations, were smartly on the scene and rendered valuable aid. The conflagration attracted an enormous crowd of people from all parts of the surrounding districts.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 3 March 1922, page 6

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The yearly statement of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, presented by the secretary (Mr. G. J. Comley) shows that the number of calls during the year was 21, with an average attendance of 17 members. There were 12 fires, with an average attendance of 18 members, and 3500 ft. of hose was used. The estimated damage to property was £3020 and the estimated damage of property saved was £17,800. There were nine false alarms, six of which were of a malicious or unknown nature. There were only eight calls between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. The brigade had attended a number of gatherings, church parades, and six special parades. Deputy-Superintendent, Wakefield, after 29 years' faithful service, had received a presentation. Discipline and efficiency had again been maintained, and the station with the appliances were in thorough order. The brigade was indebted to the South Australian Gas Company for allowing the steam whistle to be blown in cases of fire. The balance sheet showed the valuation of the plant by the Hindmarsh Corporation to be £1237. The receipts included £50 from the Underwriters' Association £65 from the Hindmarsh Corporation, and £43 15/ from private subscriptions, and the credit balance was £41 5/8. The officers are:— Superintendent, Mr. G. J. Plenty; deputy superintendent, Mr. E. A. Wakefield; first lieu-tenant, Mr. S. E. Hocking; second lieutenant, Mr. E. Smith; foreman, Mr. P. G. Hocking; engineer and electrician Mr. J. Cox; hon. surgeon, Dr. J. H. Evans ; hon. veterinary surgeon, Mr. Rice ; hon. dental surgeon, Mr. H. P. Williams; auditors, Messrs. J. James and D. W. Booth; secretary and treasurer, Mr George J. Comley.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 25 March 1922, page 2

SELF-MADE FIREMEN

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER SYSTEM THE MAGIC HOOTER

For nearly 38 years the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade has served that large district. The men have shown marked efficiency as firefighters, whose work is performed without fee of any kind. A modern motor ambulance is now run in conjunction with the brigade, and in nine months no fewer than 350 cases have been handled, also without charge.

"I consider every suburb should have a voluntary fire brigade. To equip it otherwise is a big waste of money to the Government and the municipalities." When Supt. Plenty spoke like

that he meant every word of it. He knows from long experience what the Hindmarsh Voluntary Brigade has done, and naturally he felt competent to express an opinion on the subject. Moreover, he is pardonably proud of what that system of protection has done for a district which has the "biggest risk" zone outside the city. Just think of the vast factories and works in this large industrial centre, and you can form a sound idea of what the dangers of fire mean. Yet there is not a single paid fire-man there, but about thirty of them who are ready at the magic shriek of the Gas-works hooter to don their helmets and plunge into the flames and smoke without fee or reward. What makes them do it? It may be answered simply — a deep desire to serve their district. Therein you see a tangible expression of that community interest which our departing Governor has so often advocated since his stay here — men who are not only willing but intensely eager to render something unto their country without thought of what it is worth to them. Long-service Firemen. One evening this week the "Mail" man paid a visit to the Hindmarsh Fire Station, and was greatly impressed by the inspection. The large portraits adorning the walls of the officers room bear fitting testimony to the honorary service that has been contributed to the brigade. Mr. J. M. Reid was the principal founder of the brigade, which was established nearly 38 years ago. For the 16 years from 1884 to 1900 Mr. Reid served as superintendent. Then Mr. J. Duncan assumed command. Of his 28 years' association with the brigade 12 were spent as superintendent until Mr. G. J. Plenty took over control in 1898. In August next he will have completed 21 years' relationship with the brigade, and for the past 10 years he has been and still is its popular head. Among the officers who are yet in the brigade are Deputy-Supt. E. A. Wakefield, the oldest fireman, who has completed nearly 30 years; First-Lieut. S. Hocking, who has spent nearly 28 years; Second Lieut. E. Smith, who has served almost 21 years; and Foreman P. G. Hocking, who is in his eighteenth year. These records are as remarkable as they are praise-worthy for constant, unpaid service. The total membership is 35, including the staff of the ambulance, which is run in conjunction with the brigade. The Hooter Calls. The system of alarms is of the most modern type, and street calls may be given in the same way as they are in the city. Simultaneously with the station receiving a summons the local Gasworks is automatically informed and the hooter is sounded, notifying the firemen of the out-break. In short time men are at the station ready to dash out with the fire-fighting appliances, while others hasten to the out-stations, of which there are five, nearest to the scene of the conflagration. By this means the men are enabled to be on the spot promptly, in many instances the hand-drawn hose carts being the first in commission because of their close proximity to the raging fire. The equipment at the central station is composed of two reels — a motor and a horse-drawn vehicle. In the darkness of the night the pressman was afforded an opportunity to witness a full turn-out. Listen! A sharp call comes by tele-phone, the station bells clang deafeningly, the big doors fly open, and in the space of a few moments the powerful motor, completely manned, dashes into the street, followed a second later by the galloping horse-drawn appliance. It was the first time the "Mail" man had the exhilarating experience of masquerading as a fireman. With the duty assigned to him of sounding the warning bell a seat was taken on the front of the motor reel, which roared along at a furious pace to the outskirts of the district and back again. It was an intensely realistic performance, the only thing lacking being the fire itself! Faithful "Duncan." The fire horse is named "Duncan," after an honoured ex-superintendent. Faithful "Duncan." He is the pet of the men. The motor is a swifter fire weapon than "Duncan," but it is a cold, inanimate thing by the side of this noble, intelligent chestnut which is now 17 years old, and has given nine of its best to the Hindmarsh Brigade. A tall, upstanding steed, "Duncan" is a

marvellous galloper who has been faultlessly trained to his work. Once he hears the tinkling of the station bells his ears instantly prick up and his nostrils snort, and every nerve and muscle is taut for action. In a second he is released from his imprisoned stables, the harness drops over him, and who could hold that plunger then! But "Duncan's" age is fast creeping on. The fire blood is still as hot in his veins, but his limbs are weaker. Though still a strong galloper, his best work is nailed to the guideposts along Life's thorough-fares, and every fleeting year sees this loved acquaintance of the station a feebler competitor with the modern motor speedster that laughs defiance at the efforts of the horse. Like his predecessor "Jimmy," this animal will be faithful unto death; and when he becomes too old and tottery probably he will, like "Jimmy" before him, find rest with a merciful bullet, with his skin adorning a wall in the recreation room of the station, as "Jimmy's" now does, in remembrance of a loyal and noble friend. Thousands of pounds' worth of property has been saved by the efforts of the brigade, and many big fires which have broken out in this district over the long period of its existence have been cut off from adjoining properties and immense "saves" effected by volunteer firemen who have been well trained in the science of fire-fighting. A Free Ambulance. Nor is this all of the brigade's activities. An ambulance is there, too, its work being also of a volunteer character with the exception of a paid driver, whose presence is permanently required. The ambulance instructors are Messrs. W. H. Fraser and W. H. Anderson, who are highly proficient in the work. Through the liberality of the public-spirited residents of Hindmarsh the motor van was purchased at a cost of £525. Although it has been in commission only nine months it has already handled 350 cases, receiving calls daily. With a population of about 14,000 people, the advantages will be readily recognised of such a district possessing the most modern ambulance, for the use of which no charge at all is made. Hindmarsh is justifiably noted for the spirit of citizenship which inspires its residents, and nowhere is there a better example of it than in the work the brigade is doing. It is a record that will live.

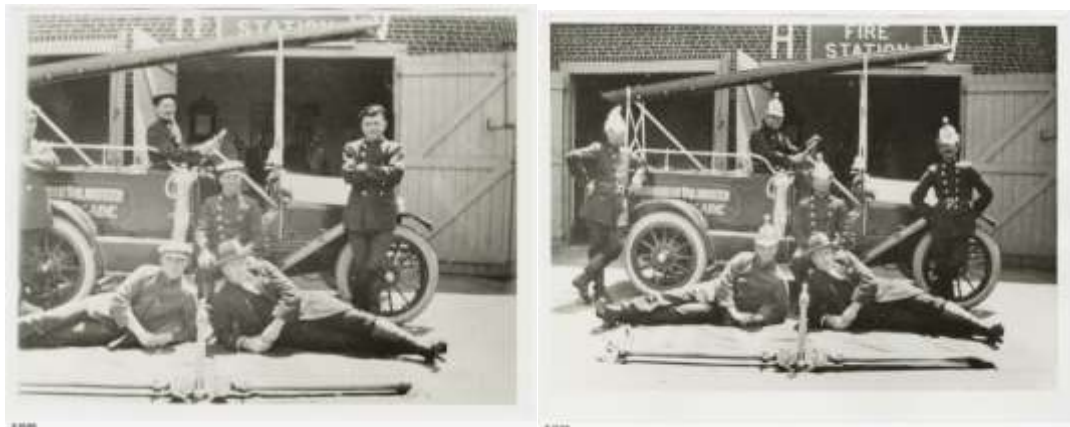
MEMBERS OF THE HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.



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TOP ROW.— Firemen J. V. Incoll. C. Ferris, J. Hooker, A. A. Miller, P. Miller, F. Incoll. SECOND ROW.—Foreman P. G. Hocking, Firemen H. J. Hall, M. Pleass, A. McLennan, W. Drummond, A. Harley, J. Robertson, C. Plenty, M.M. SITTING.— Fireman E. McNiece, Mrs. G. J. Plenty, Superintendent G. J. Plenty, Lady Weigall, Deputy Superintendent E. Wakefield, First Lieutenant S. Hocking, Second Lieut. E. Smith. FRONT.— Firemen F. Pearce, L. Thomas.

Lady Weigall and the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade [PRG 280/1/27/177]. Lady Weigall, wife of the Governor of South Australia, sitting with another woman and members of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade in front of their Fire Station; other names not known. 1922. Part of Searcy Collection.



State Library of South Australia - Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh [B 35268] & [B 35269]. Fire Officers and Overland '75' Fire Engine of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade: E.F. Pearce at the wheel, A Harley on far right. And Fire Officers and Overland '75' Fire Engine of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Note: no publication without donor's permission. Approximately 1922. Part of Hindmarsh Collection



State Library of South Australia - Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh [B 35263]. First motor fire reel and last horse fire reel and Volunteer Fire Officers at the Fire Station. Note: no publication with donors permission. 1922. Part of Hindmarsh Collection.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 15 April 1922, page 8

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

ANNUAL GATHERING.

Good Friday of each year is set apart by the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade for recreation. The men, whose duties are carried out without fee or reward, have established a recreation club, maintained by their own subscriptions and private donations, the brigade funds not being used for social functions. This year a four-rink bowls game, between members and friends, took place in the morning on the Hindmarsh Bowling Club rinks. A hot dinner (cooked by members, who waited on the tables) was served in the station. Superintendent G. J. Plenty, who presided, submitted the loyal toast. He then gave the toast of "The visitors," and referred to the presence of the Mayor (Mr. W. E. Dennis), Mr. Blackwell, M.P., Mr. W. J. Venning (Crystal Brook), and ex-Superintendent J. Duncan. The Mayor, in reply, said that the volunteer brigade was something to be proud of, as was also the motor ambulance, which was under its guidance. Since the ambulance had been launched about nine months ago, 392 calls had been made for the use of it. When His Excellency the Governor (Sir Archibald Weigall) had inspected the station some time ago he had characterised it as splendid. The Hindmarsh Brigade was a pattern to be admired, and emulated. Mr. Blackwell, M.P., said they were a volunteer brigade, and wanted to remain so. (Chorus of hear, hear.) Visitors entering the station for the first time were surprised at the fine building and equipment, which was all paid for and the property of the town. The Hindmarsh Council supported it, and other governing bodies paid much more for no better service. Lieut. S. Hocking submitted "Kindred brigades." For some years they had been without a kindred volunteer brigade. Norwood, and then Payneham (at one time volunteers)

joined up with the metropolitan brigades; but he was pleased to see they had a neighbour in the Woodville district and others at Crystal Brook and Jamestown; and he believed there would soon be one at Victor Harbour. Mr. W. J. Venning (Crystal Brook) said he was proud that they had such a fine brigade. Foreman Clifford (Woodville) also spoke. Ald. R. J. Holiday proposed the "Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, Ambulance, and Recreation Committee." Lieut. E. Smith replied. Foreman P. G. Hooking (Secretary of the Recreation Committee) said they claimed that day as their day. "The press" was honoured at the instance of Mr. G. Comley (secretary). During the afternoon various forms of sport were indulged in. At the tea table Mr. G. Chapman (Freemason Ramblers Baseball Club) expressed the thanks of that body for the hospitality extended to them at different times. The day's pleasure concluded with a musical programme by members and friends.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Thursday 4 May 1922, page 1

SHOP FIRE.

A shop and two rooms, used as a dwelling, in Twelfth street, Bowden, were totally destroyed by fire on Wednesday night. The building was owned and occupied by Mr. C. R. Hearse, who carried on a mixed business. It consisted of brick, wood, and iron. When the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade arrived, it was impossible to do anything. It is not known how the fire originated. The estimated damage is £800. The premises and stock were insured in the Palatine Insurance Company for £700.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 19 June 1922, page 5

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER MOTOR AMBULANCE.

The Hindmarsh Motor Ambulance, which was launched by Lady Weigall about 12 months ago, has more than justified its existence. During that period the ambulance has travelled 3,500 miles, and inclusive of a number of accident cases, has carried 480 patients to hospitals. No charge is made to residents of the district, but for persons residing in other localities, a fee is imposed, and with the exception of the day driver (who receives an honorarium), the work is done voluntarily, and as under the supervision of the local volunteer fire brigade. It has a capable staff, who take turns at night duty. In order to provide for maintenance and upkeep, it is proposed to inaugurate a sinking fund. With that object a meeting will be held on Tuesday to finalize arrangements for a house-to-house appeal in the district from June 24 to July 1.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 21 June 1922, page 9

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER MOTOR AMBULANCE.

A meeting of residents was held in the council chamber, Hindmarsh Town Hall, on Tuesday night, when a scheme for raising funds for the maintenance and up-keep of the Hindmarsh volunteer motor ambulance was finalized. Mr. W. E. Dennis (Mayor of Hindmarsh) presided over a large attendance. The Chairman spoke of the valuable work accomplished by the ambulance since it had been installed about 12 months ago, and said it was to be kept going for another year. The question of raising funds fell upon the residents of the district. Money was required for petrol, tires, and the day driver's honorarium. They did not expect the driver to give up his time without some remuneration. He believed that before long they would have to have another ambulance. Mr. G. Comley (secretary) outlined details of a scheme for personal canvassing in the district, which had been worked out by

Superintendent G. J. Plenty and himself. Five thousand subscribers' cards had been issued in that connection. He further stated that in cases of sickness or accidents to residents of the district the ambulance was free. Maternity cases in the Hindmarsh district were charged 10/ per service, and patients desiring to be removed from hospitals to their homes in the district had to pay a similar fee. Residents of other localities who were employed in factories which subscribed to the funds would, in cases of accidents only, be entitled to the free use of the motor conveyance. Superintendent Plenty said that during the past 12 months 500 cases had been dealt with. The Hindmarsh motor ambulance was the only volunteer one of the kind in Australia, and they ought to do their best to maintain it under the voluntary system. He was sure they would meet with the success the cause deserved if the town were thoroughly canvassed. Mr. G. Comley is secretary of the ambulance, which is under the supervision of the local fire brigade. Mr. G. J. Plenty is superintendent, and Mr. P. G. Hocking ambulance officer.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 12 August 1922, page 3

RANG THE FIRE ALARM.

At about 6 o'clock on Saturday a small boy riding a push-bike in Gibson Street, Bowden, noticed the door of a fire alarm box open. He rang the alarm, causing the gasworks hooter to be sounded and the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade to rush to the scene. The police secured the name of the lad.

1923



State Library of South Australia - Ambulance Service [B 35261], Hindmarsh Volunteer Ambulance Service. 1923. Part of Hindmarsh Collection

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 15 January 1923, page 6

FIRE AT CROYDON.

Twenty-one members, under Deputy Superintendent S. Hocking, of the Hind-marsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, responded to a call to a fire at Messrs. Knapman Brothers' brickyard, Croydon, on Saturday afternoon. The outbreak was confined to a wooden shed which was burnt. The estimated damage was £10.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 15 March 1923, page 12

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER BRIGADE

Superintendent G. J. Plenty presided at the annual meeting of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, held in the members' recreation room. The report of the secretary (Mr. G. J. Comley) stated that 15 calls were received, with an average attendance of 16 members. The estimated amount of property saved was £2,000. Nine false alarms were given, five of them having been malicious. Only six of the 15 calls were made during working hours, so that employers were not seriously inconvenienced by the firemen leaving their work. Six special parades were attended. The weekly parades had an average attendance of 23. The financial statement showed:— Receipts, £386; donations, £68; Hindmarsh Corporation, £65; Underwriters' Association, £50; Government grant (electrical appliances), £42; Adelaide Pottery Works (for services rendered), £10. The principal items of expenditure were Government electrical appliances, £42; uniforms, boots, and so on, £41; firemen on night duty, £33; balance in bank, £44. The plant is valued at £1,237. It comprises a motor reel (fully equipped), £345; two chemical extinguishers, 26 firemen's uniforms and accountments, horse reel and hose, five branch stations and look-out; six hand carts, and 4,400 ft. of hosing. The officers are:— Superintendent. G. J. Plenty; Deputy Superintendent, S. E. Hocking; Lieutenant, E. Smith; Station Officer, P. G. Hocking; Foreman, A. Harley; Engineer and Electrician, J. Cox; Honorary Surgeon, Dr. Evans; Honorary Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. Rice; Honorary Dental Surgeon, Mr. H. P. Williams; Honorary Auditors, Messrs. L. J. Martin, and J. Comley. The motor ambulance, which James; Secretary and Treasurer, G. J. is worked in conjunction with the brigade, has had a number of improvements installed. An air mattress, recently purchased, has been much appreciated by patients. More than 900 cases have been attended to since the ambulance was inaugurated.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 31 March 1923, page 10

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN.

Annual Dinner at Hindmarsh.

"If things are worth doing at all, they are worth doing, well," is the motto of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. They have a recreation club in connection with the brigade, which is maintained by the members, without using the funds of the brigade. On Good Friday of each year that day is set apart, for a full day of recreation by the officers and men. A hot midday dinner is served at the station. The cooking of the edibles is supervised by the members, who also attend to the waiting at the tables. This year's gathering at dinner was presided over by the Deputy Superintendent (Mr. S. Hocking). The loyal toast having been honoured, the Chairman submitted "The visitors." He referred to the late Mr. W. J. Venning, who had journeyed from Crystal Brook each year to take part in the gathering. Responding to the toast of "The Parliament," Mr. Blackwell, M.P., said it had been stated that there were five or six other volunteer brigades, and it would greatly strengthen Hindmarsh, if volunteer brigades were instituted in other of the middle-sized towns. He strongly advocated the adoption of this system. Fireman R. E. Foggo (Woodville Volunteer Brigade) replied on behalf

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

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11 December 2024

of "Kindred brigades." Ald. W. Wood (speaking for the visitors) said that they had great admiration for the brigade. If the latter were brought under the metropolitan system, they, as citizens, would have to pay more and receive less service. Mr. W. E. Dennis (Mayor of Hindmarsh), submitted "The Hindmarsh Volunteer' Fire Brigade and Recreation Club." He said the brigade were always willing, among other things, to assist in forming guards of honour at official functions in the town. He was pleased to say that the Municipal Act had been amended, and they could now levy a 3/4d. rate for the up-keep of volunteer fire brigades. At the last meeting of the local council there had been no dissentients to the proposal that opportunity should be taken of the amended Act. If that were adopted the increased rate would bring in a revenue of £1,000. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade was second to none in the State, and was one of the best in the southern hemisphere, as a volunteer brigade. It did not matter how good the men were, they could not be successful if the appliances were not up to date, and he believed that they, like the Metropolitan Brigade, could do with more modern appliances. He would like to see installed a motor-driven petrol pump, which would make for more efficiency in fire fighting. If they had come under the metropolitan system they would not have been so well served, and it would have cost them more than the proposed 3/4d. rate. Lieut. E. Smith, replying, said he was glad to know the town council was behind the brigade. In the morning a four-rinks bowls match was played on the Hindmarsh Bowling Club's green. Result:— Boyce, W. Incoll, Wing, Mounster, 22; N. Wood, F. Incoll, Webb, T. Hepworth, 10; Young, Smith, Pearce, Stroud, 19; Penhall, Miller, C. Hocking, Miller, 15; Crimes, Hepworth, Trott, Ferris, 15; Dickenson, Hodson, Harley, Battersby, 29; W. Wood, J. Incoll, Bartholomew, Martin, 24; Murphy, Hocking, Anderson, Thomas, 16. The afternoon was devoted to various forms of amusement. Tea was provided by the members, and the evening was spent in the recreation hall, where a programme of musical items was arranged by members, assisted by Messrs Boyce, Arnold, and R. Walker.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 28 July 1923, page 10

Handled By Volunteers

WORK AT HINDMARSH

Hindmarsh property is protected when a fire breaks out, and injured people are carried to hospital by the 38 members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and Ambulance Corps. The volunteers are available at a minute's notice at all hours of the, day and night. They keep themselves fit by fire and ambulance drill, ju-jitsu, gymnastics, boxing, and they receive no recompense except the enjoyment, they get from their "hobby."

ORIGIN OF BRIGADE.

Established 39 years ago, the Fire Brigade had Mr. John Reid for its first superintendent. Residents and the big manufacturers had no protection from fire, and there was no regularly paid brigade even in the city. The first premises consisted of an old tin shed on the Port road, and the first plant of a hand cart and reel and 500 ft. of hose. Later a horse reel was bought, and a few years ago an up-to-date motor reel with all appliances. It is hoped next year to buy a Dennis fire-reel and pump.

NO CHARGE FOR SERVICES.

Money for upkeep is obtained by a Government subsidy, a corporation grant, a grant from the underwriters, and by donations from the manufacturers. No charge is made for

extinguishing fires. An alarm signal notifies the Gas Works as well as the Brigade of an outbreak, and they immediately blow their steam whistle; a long blast if the fire is on the west side of the railway line, short blasts if on the east. Firemen turn out quickly; the fire is generally easy to locate. Five hand reels, each with 500 ft. of hose, have been placed in the most dangerous parts of the town. One of these, quickly operated by a fireman living near, sometimes stops the flames from gaining hold. Employers allow the men to go on fire duty at any the of the day.

BIG FIRES FOUGHT.

Some big fires have been fought, the biggest being Burford's Hindmarsh soap factory and rope works Not long ago, when King's tanyard was burning, the men, unable to save it, placed wet sacks over their heads, and, in the midst of the flames, resolutely fought to stop them spreading to Reid's timbermills.

AN HONORABLE POSITION.

It is an honor to belong to the brigade. Only a certain quota is allowed, which includes auxiliary men. When a vacancy occurs the best applicant is given an auxiliary's position, and the auxiliary later becomes a fireman proper. But vacancies occur only once in a few years. The average service of the fireman is 10 years, and since the inauguration of the brigade there have been only three superintendents—Mr. John Reid, Mr. J. Darling, and the present head, Mr. G. J. Plenty.

OFFICER'S LONG SERVICE.

Mr. Plenty's service extends over 26 years, during the last 12 of which he has been superintendent. "They are indeed a fine body of men," he said, speaking of his men. "The discipline and efficiency maintained are wonderful. I know of no other such institution so long established, so efficient, so equipped, and so disciplined. The members have built a recreation and other rooms, bought themselves a billiard table, and erected the building in which the ambulance is housed. Every member must attend drill on Wednesday night or send an apology, and generally most spend their evenings at the rooms. Two men sleep on the premises every night, and on holidays, a special team is picked for service."

MOTOR AMBULANCE.

He considers the motor ambulance the best in Australia. It was established two years ago. During 1922 it carried 700 patients—almost an average of two a day. It has the latest type of wire stretchers, an electric fan for use in the summer, and a heating apparatus worked from the exhaust for the winter, which keeps the temperature at 98 deg. There is also everything necessary in the way of disinfectants, bandages, splints, &c. The carriage is equipped with the best springs. After every infectious case the inside of the ambulance is dis-infected. Two years ago the ambulance was bought by private subscription, Mr. John Reid and the Gas Works helping considerably with donations of 50 guineas each. Since that time a yearly appeal has been made to all ratepayers to give their humble shilling or more for its maintenance. A permanent man—the only paid one on the premises—is kept to drive the ambulance. This week one of the firemen is giving up his week's holiday in order that the ambulance driver may have his—and just for pleasure. The firemen are also ambulance' men. Four of them are St. John's ambulance men. Mr. Plenty hopes that a room will shortly

be equipped with a carpenter's bench and tools, in which members may amuse and educate themselves by making furniture, &c.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 10 August 1923, page 12

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade proposes further to increase its appliances by the purchase of a Dennis pump, at a cost of £1,500, and to install it next year.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 22 October 1923, page 7

HINDMARSH BRIGADE

EARLY DAYS RECALLED

Mr. Duncan's Long Record

When the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed in 1884 Mr. J. Duncan was made first lieutenant, and for the next 28 years—the last 12 as superintendent—he was a firefighter. He has lived in Hindmarsh for 43 years, and has vivid recollections of the early days of the brigade. Nine members were in the brigade then; now there are 39. Whenever a fire started in those days an eyewitness informed the gasworks, which blew their whistle, and the brigade rang up the works for information. There were no alarms, such as they have now. In several fires the Hindmarsh Brigade was called in to help the Adelaide men. Among these were the big fire in 1885 at Burford & Sons' candle-works, on the site of the Electric Supply Company's present works, and the



Mr. J. Duncan

fire at the Academy of Music, Rundle street. For two or three days the Hindmarsh Brigade fought to extinguish the fire at Dowie's tan yards, Bowden, which began on January 3. 1886. The fire at Burford's soap factory, Hindmarsh, a few years ago, was the largest the local brigade has had to fight. Before water was laid on in the city many years ago, and a fire broke out, insurance companies gave £5 to the first handcart of water to reach the fire.

Water had to be brought from the Torrens, or used from private tanks. During his connection with the brigade Mr. Duncan did much fine work.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 18 December 1923, page 17

NUISANCES AT HINDMARSH.

FIRE IN A PUGHOLE AND SMELLS FROM VENT PIPES.

The nuisance created by the continual fire in a pughole at Brompton was referred to by Councillor McBurnie at Monday's meeting of the Hindmarsh Council. He said the stench was unbearable for people attending the church opposite. Alderman Brown stated that if a previous resolution of the council had been carried out the nuisance would have been abated. It was resolved to ask the Fire Brigade to put out the fire in the corporation pughole, and that a roadway be put down into the pughole, so that the rubbish could be covered with earth. Councillor Jarvis stated that the smells arising from the vent pipes at Government-road, Croydon, were unbearable at times. He moved that the Commissioner of Public Works be written to drawing his attention to the vile odors emanating from the vent pipes. The resolution was carried.

1924

Headquarters of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, two ambulances, 1913 Overland and 1923 Dennis at the ready.



Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh [B 35271]. Headquarters of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, two ambulances, 1913 Overland and 1923 Dennis at the ready. 1924. Photographer - Douglas Darian Smith.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 16 January 1924, page 6

HERE AND THERE Hindmarsh Fire Brigade Asking for a grant of £1,500 to purchase a new Dennis motor pump and fire reel. a letter has been received by the Hindmarsh Council from the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. The council will make an inspection of the brigade on Wednesday, February 6, and will make their decision after this.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 7 February 1924, page 8

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

Recently the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade applied to the local council for a grant of £1,500 to purchase a Dennis turbine engine. A combined meeting of members of the council and fire brigade was held in the brigade room on Wednesday. Supt. G. J. Plenty welcomed the Mayor and members of the council. The Mayor (Mr. F. W. Dennis) stated that he felt sure that the council would be prepared to make a vote of £1,000 towards the fund. The increased rate imposed this year was for the purpose of providing better fire-fighting facilities for the brigade. It was only part of a great improvement. While the council was prepared to vote £1,000, he considered others should contribute towards the cost. Fireman A. Battersby, Secretary G. Comley, Cr. W. E. Dennis, Supt. G. J. Plenty, Ald. J. Steele and J. D. Brown, Deputy Supt. S. Hosking. Ambulance Officer McCarthy, and Mr. Murray Auger also spoke. The council will deal with the matter at its next meeting.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 12 February 1924, page 2

NEW FIRE ENGINE FOR HINDMARSH.

The sum of £1,000 was voted towards the cost of a new motor pump fire engine for the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade by the Hindmarsh Council on Monday. A letter had been received from the secretary of the brigade asking for £1,500. Since then it had been ascertained that the cost of the appliance, landed in South Australia, would be £1,257, and that the agents would accept £1,000 cash, and the balance in 12 months, free of interest.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 12 February 1924, page 12

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

NEW MOTOR FIRE ENGINE TO BE PURCHASED.

At the meeting of the Hindmarsh Town Council on Monday evening it was decided to vote £1,000 towards the cost of a new motor pump fire engine for the local volunteer fire brigade. Previous to this meeting a letter had been received from the secretary of the brigade, asking the council for £1,500 to purchase the engine. It has been further ascertained that the cost of the machine, landed in South Australia, would be £1,257, and that the agents would agree to accept £1,000 in cash, and the balance in 12 months, free of interest, it was further decided to meet the executive of the fire brigade with respect to the ordering of the machine, and interviewing the Underwriters' Association.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 15 March 1924, page 8

FIRE AT BROMPTON.

A fire occurred at Mr. Austin Reeves's brickyard, Brompton, on Friday night. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade, under Deputy-Superintendent. S. Hocking, turned out. A galvanized iron

shed and about one and a half tons of wood were burnt. The damage is estimated at £13. It is surmised that a spark from the kiln was the cause of the loss.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 24 March 1924, page 9

HINDMARSH FIRE.

Burford's Factory Damaged.

About 12.30 o'clock this morning a fire occurred at the factory of W. H. Burford and Sons, Limited, soap and candle makers, in Adam street, Hindmarsh. The local brigade effected a smart turn-out, and by 1 o'clock it appeared to have the outbreak under control. It is thought that the fire originated in the engine room, and the trouble was confined to the back portion of the factory. A wall prevented the flames from spreading. So far details of the damage are not available.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 24 March 1924, page 5

FIRE AT HINDMARSH

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade extinguished the fourth fire it has dealt with at Burford's soap factory at Hindmarsh early this morning. The fire is thought to have started by a spark flying into a head of sawdust on Saturday afternoon.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 25 March 1924, page 13

BURFORD'S FIRE: DAMAGES. £500.

Mr. H. M. Radcliffe, the manager of Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons' Hindmarsh works, estimates the damage caused by the fire at the establishment on Monday morning at £500, covered by a policy issued by the Yorkshire Insurance Company. Portion of the stock, and part of the roof were damaged. The promptness of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade limited the damage. Some chemicals stored near the scene of the outbreak were affected by water. The alarm was given by Mr. Joseph A. Zeltner, of Hindmarsh, who, when in his yard, saw smoke issuing from Burford's. The origin of the fire, which appeared to have broken out among a quantity of sawdust, has not been ascertained.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 25 March 1924, page 12

THE HINDMARSH FIRE.

DAMAGE EXCEEDS £400.

The damage caused by the fire at Messrs. W. H. Burford's Apollo Works, Adam-street, Hindmarsh, early on Monday morning, is estimated at between £400 and £500. The building and plant sustained considerable damage. The roof of the boiler-house was destroyed. A quantity of goods was damaged by water. There was not sufficient damage to cause any dislocation in the work at the factory, which was resumed as usual on Tuesday morning. The premises are insured with the Yorkshire Fire Insurance Company.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 25 March 1924, page 13

HINDMARSH CORPORATION. Monday, March 21.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade to be asked to endeavour to secure additional fire alarms in the town.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 10 April 1924, page 9

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The annual report and financial statement of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was submitted to members at a meeting on Wednesday night. Superintendent G. J. Plenty presided over a large attendance. The report stated that of the 25 calls received by the brigade, 17 were false alarms. The average attendance at the calls was 14. The estimated damage at the fires was slight, but was calculated that property to the value of £20,360 was saved by the promptness of the brigade. Thanks were extended to the employers who allowed the firemen to leave their work to respond to the alarms. At the 52 weekly parades there was an average attendance of 27 members and a similar number attended the two special parades. Seven church parades were held, with an average attendance of 23. During the coming year it was expected that a 300-350 gallon turbine motor fire engine would be installed. The brigade thanks were extended to the S.A. Gas Company, the honorary surgeons, and the police, for the assistance rendered. Included in the receipts were:— Hindmarsh Corporation grant and allowances, £110; Underwriters' Association, £50; private donations, £69; firemen at public entertainments, £40; Government grant for electrical appliances, £42. The principal items of expenditure were:— Uniforms, boots, and so on, £40; electrical appliances, £42; rent, gas, and water, £45; insurance (firemen), £30; night duty, £31; firemen at public entertainments, £33, sundries, £28; balance, £55. The value of the plant was £1,237. It included a motor reel (£345), 26 firemen's outfits (£169), five branch stations' hand-carts (6) 4,400 ft. of hosing, hosebrusher and winder billiard table, furniture, and other appliances (£688), and smoke helmet and helmets (£28).

The officers were:—Superintendent, Mr. G. J. Plenty; Deputy Superintendent, Mr. S. E. Hocking; Lieutenant, Mr. E. Smith; Station Officer, Mr. P. G. Hocking; Foreman, Mr. A. Harley; Engineer and Electrician, Mr. J. Cox; Hon. Surgeon, Dr. J. H. Evans; Hon. Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. Rice; Hon. Dental Surgeon, Mr. H. P. Williams; Hon. Solicitor, Mr. W. R. Ray; Hon. Auditors, Messrs J. James and L. J. Martin; and Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. G. J. Comley.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 19 April 1924, page 5

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

On Good Friday Eve each year the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and Motor Ambulance hold a re-union. The members, who devote time in an honorary capacity, are under the leadership of Superintendent G. J. Plenty, and a competent staff of officers, and have an excellent plant. The gathering on Friday began with a three-rink bowls match, at the Hindmarsh Club's green. A dinner was held at the station. The superintendent presided. Deputy Superintendent S. Hocking proposed the toast of "The Visitors." In response, the Mayor (Mr. F. W. Dinnis), said that the citizens appreciate achievements of the brigade, which constitute a record. Their recent work at Burford's factory was "right up to the mark," and it showed that the men were always ready. The majority of citizens were in sympathy with the brigade. The council had been able to assist in the purchase of a new appliance

which would bring the brigade more up to date. With the requisite housing the cost of the motor pump would be nearly £2,000. He hoped that the plan would be installed this year. Mr. J. James (auditor) said that the conduct of accounts by the officers was excellent. Nothing was lost or wasted. Mr. Olsen also spoke. Lieut. E. Smith submitted "kindred brigades." He said that he hoped to see formed an association formed of volunteer brigades. Mr. Hoffmeyer (Woodville) acknowledged the toast. Mr. Blackwell, M.P., in proposing the "Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade, and the Recreation Club," said he believed the brigade was second to none in voluntary work. He was surprised at the falling off of volunteer brigades, and supported the formation of an association. In acknowledgment, Superintendent Plenty stated that £1,000 had been voted by the Hindmarsh Council to the new pump, and £250 had been received from the Underwriters' Association. The Government would be asked for assistance. Station Officer P. G. Hocking replied on behalf of the recreation committee. Those who contributed to the programme were Messrs. F. Boyce, E. McAllister, R. Walkley, Station Officer Hocking, and Sub-Instructor E. Stroud.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 23 May 1924, page 8

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was summoned to a fire at the Hindmarsh Bridge about 2 a.m. on Thursday. The flames which had damaged 25 of the sheet piles, were soon extinguished. The origin of the outbreak is unknown.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 24 May 1924, page 13

MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

Mr. Broadbridge, of Bowden-on-the-Hill, was filling the petrol tank of his motor car on Friday evening, when the spirit became ignited, it is reported, from the flame of a candle. The front portion of the car, and portions of a wood-and-iron shed were damaged. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade were called, but the fire was out before their arrival. The car was not insured.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 30 May 1924, page 13

FIRE AT BROMPTON.

A chaff shed and stables and a quantity of harness belonging to Mr. E. T. Medlow, of Brompton, were partially destroyed by fire early on Thursday morning. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade was summoned to the outbreak, and soon got the flames under control. The estimated damage was £100. The buildings and goods were not insured.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 11 July 1924, page 10

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

HINDMARSH STATION VISITED.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade contemplates certain extensive improvements, and on this account it has approached the Government for financial assistance for the first time since its establishment. A visit of inspection was paid to the station of Wednesday night by the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. Jelley) and Mrs. Jelley, who were accompanied by the Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. F. W. Dinnis), and a display was given. Subsequently an opportunity was

taken to direct the attention of the Minister to the financial situation of the brigade. It was pointed out that the installation of the Dennis motor pump at a cost of £1,250 was contemplated. It was also proposed to enlarge the accommodation to allow of several of the rooms now used for brigade purposes being devoted to occupational training. Classes would be formed for teaching the staff woodwork and other trades. Towards the cost of the Dennis pump the corporation was contributing £1,000, and the underwriters £250. The structural alterations to the building, however, would involve an estimated outlay of £750, and it was desired that the Government should assist the brigade to that extent. It was pointed out that the request was the first that had been made to the Government by the brigade, and the management added that it was not proposed to make any further requests for financial aid. In the same building as the brigade there was a well-equipped ambulance, and during the year no fewer than 700 persons had been removed by it — an average of about two a day. That had been done without any cost whatever to the Government. The brigade were about to secure another ambulance, which would be the most up-to-date of its kind in Australia. The Minister congratulated the brigade on its splendid efficiency and the fine gratuitous services it had rendered to the community. Although the financial position was very black indeed, he would place their request before his colleagues, with a strong recommendation that it should be acceded to and provision made for the money when the loan estimates were being framed.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 19 August 1924, page 4

WHO WANTS A HORSE?

Appeal by Volunteer Firemen

JIM DUNCAN TO RETIRE

Jim Duncan's only crime is that he has labored too long for the public good; but his punishment is that, after 11 years' hard and faithful service, he is to be thrown to tigers and lions at the Zoo. Jim Duncan is the fire horse attached to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and was named after a popular superintendent of that name. Eleven years ago he was bought by the men of the brigade, and since then has become a highly trained and expert fire horse and a lovable pet. Up till a few years ago Jim galloped to all the fires with his swaying fire-reel bumping behind, and he evidently enjoyed every minute of it. Lately, however, a motor was bought, and although Jim also went to all the fires. he was no longer of the first importance. If he could talk he would probably say that the two proudest moments of his life were when he got out of the station more quickly than the motor. In all, Jim has been to more than 100 fires, and has never once failed in what was required of him. As soon as the bell rings he rushes into the station, backs into place, and is bitterly disappointed if it is not the call of duty. Now a Dennis pump is on its way from Great Britain, and when that arrives Jim will be needed no longer. Although still a magnificent animal, willing to gallop until he drops, he is a back number. When the new machine arrives there will be no room for him, and he must go. Whether he goes to the Zoo or to some grassy retreat where he can end his days in the peace and quietness that his stressful life has deserved depends on the public. The fact is that Jim is such an excellent firehorse that he is good for nothing else. He cannot be ridden and he cannot be harnessed in the ordinary way. As he is 17 years old it would be difficult to break him into any other sort of work, but he is still a well-built chestnut in excellent condition, with magnificent shoulders and withers. A horse capable of years of work yet—if he only knew how.

Naturally, the men who own him do not want to see him fed to animals. They have taught him to shake hands and to extract dainties from a pocket, and many other tricks, and he is one of the quietest and best liked horses in Adelaide. The firemen do not want to sell Jim Duncan; all they want is a home for him, where he will be well treated and looked after. Is there anyone in Adelaide who wants him?

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 17 November 1924, page 9

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

DAMAGE AT A FURNITURE EMPORIUM. A GOOD "SAVE" BY THE VOLUNTEER BRIGADE.

A fire, involving several thousands of pounds' worth of damage, broke out in Mr. R. C. Worthley's Furniture Emporium at Hindmarsh on Sunday afternoon. Only the determined efforts of the local fire-fighters kept the conflagration from assuming more serious proportions.

Dense volumes of smoke, which appeared to the north-west of the city about 3.30 p.m. on Sunday, attracted a large crowd to Hindmarsh, where a fire had broken out in the furnishing and hardware emporium of Mr. R. C. Worthier, at the corner of the Port-road and West-street, Brompton. The outbreak, which started in the carpet and linoleum department, had already got a good hold when it was noticed by a boy, Herbert Higgins, of Ridley-street, Croydon, who was walking along West-street with some companions. The youngsters ran to the nearest fire alarm and called up the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade, which was on the scene a few minutes later with two reels.

Dense, Black Smoke.

The main building, which is of brick and stone, has two storeys, and has a frontage of more than 50 ft. to the Port-road, with a depth of 60 ft. to West-street, on the other side of which is the Worthley Pottery. Behind this building and adjoining it was the carpet department, a single-storey building, 30 ft. x 70 ft., with a loft, which was used for storing hardware. This building, which also included a covered right-of-way, was mostly of wood and iron. The heavy black smoke which poured from the premises, together with the smell of burning paint and oil, told a sorry tale of hundreds of pounds' worth of linoleums and oilcloths being burned. Right alongside the back verandah, a few feet away from the raging inferno, was the paint and oil department, and it only needed a spark to start another conflagration. Realising the danger of this, Superintendent G. J. Plenty, of the Hindmarsh Brigade, determined to attack the flames from close quarters.

A Bucket Brigade at Work.

Mr. Worthley, whose private residence is on the Port-road, alongside the shop, had gone out motoring for the afternoon. Fortunately. Miss Alice Worthley, who was at home, was able to get the keys of the shop. She pluckily ventured into the back yard and opened the front doors of the establishment, enabling the firemen to run a line of hose through the shop, and another was taken down West-street. An endless chain of buckets was formed by willing workers, and walls and roofs of buildings in the vicinity were constantly kept wet, in order to minimise the risk of them catching fire. By this time hundreds of vehicles of all descriptions had arrived on the scene, and thousands of sightseers had gathered. There was a good pressure of water.

A Fireman Injured.

Just before 4 o'clock a rumor that a fireman had been killed was current, but fortunately, it proved untrue. Fireman Ray Woods, however, had met with a nasty accident, which necessitated his removal in the ambulance. When engaged in chopping down a burning post his axe slipped, and went through his boot on to the instep of his right foot. He received first-aid treatment and was then sent in the Volunteer Ambulance to the Adelaide Hospital. An examination showed that he had severed several sinews and had laid the bone bare. An operation will be necessary, but it is thought there is little danger of his losing his foot. Miss Worthley had been making every effort to locate one or other of her five brothers, who are associated with their father in the business. A determined effort was made to secure the books and other documents of the firm, and this task was accomplished at considerable risk, as the ceiling of the office was well alight and the charred edges of many of the papers testified to their narrow escape from destruction.

Flames Prevented from Spreading.

A number of cottages in West-street were thought to be in danger at one time, but the fears of the occupants proved groundless. Mr. Worthley's private residence had an exceedingly narrow escape, as on one occasion the flames were licking at the woodwork under the roof, and only the work of the bucket brigade kept them from getting a firm hold. After about an hour's hard work it was apparent that the brigade had been successful in confining the outbreak, but the charred beams and twisted sheets of iron of the back verandah showed how close the flames had gone to gutting the establishment. Part of the verandah fell in later in the afternoon, but fortunately nobody was hurt.

Enthusiastic Fire-fighters.

In discussing the "save" Superintendent Plenty said he had about twenty men at the fire out of a roll call of 25. All the men were enthusiasts at their work, and the majority had had about fifteen years' experience. "The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade has its own methods of working," he remarked. "We always go right to the seat of the fire just as we did to-day. At night or if the smoke is so dense as to necessitate it the man in charge dons a smoke helmet and he locates the very heart of the outbreak. The men worked splendidly to-day and disregarded their own danger. They all live within a stone's throw of the station and always regard themselves as being on duty." Sergeant Ryan said the crowd had been most orderly, and there had been no attempt at looting, and everybody seemed ready to render assistance.

Carpets and Hearthrugs Destroyed.

Amongst the goods burned was a consignment of carpets and hearthrugs which arrived only on Saturday. It was after noon when they reached the establishment, and as it was so late it was determined to store them in the front shop until Monday. It was decided later, however, that they should be taken out to the carpet department ready for unpacking on Monday. Only a month ago English aluminium goods to the value of £100 had been stored in the loft in readiness for the Christmas trade, and a few days ago more than £100 worth of hardware had also been stored there. During the afternoon Mr. Owen Worthley, who was motoring down the Port-road, noticed the crowd congregated outside his father's shop and saw the ambulance arrive. Thinking there had been some motor accident in the vicinity he went across to make enquiries and discovered that the place was on fire.

The Insurances.

The buildings and stock are covered under two separate policies with the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Company, but until the policies are obtained from the bank this morning, the total amount cannot be ascertained. Mr. H. R. Worthley stated last night that the value of the premises and contents was in the vicinity of £10,000, but he thought the total of the insurances was about half of this amount.

Damage Estimated at Over £3,000.

"It's a big loss, representing much hard work of over 31 years," said Mr. H. R. Worthley, when speaking of the fire, "and I suppose it will mean putting our shoulders to the wheel and making up for what we have lost." Mr. Worthley said he estimated the damage at between £3,000 and £4,000, and this was, he thought, only covered by insurance to the extent of about one-half, which would mean a dead loss of from £1,500 to £2,000. "Until we are able to get into the premises and at our books, it will be impossible to say exactly the extent of the damage. The firm was originated by Mr. R. C. Worthley in 1891. The building where the outbreak occurred was the oldest part of the premises, and was used for the display of carpets and linoleums, &c., and the loft, where the fire is supposed to have started, was used for the storage of hardware and general kitchen lines. Most of the stock there was new, including a quantity of German lines, which had only recently been imported. Most of the linoleums and carpets were new.

Cause of Fire Unknown.

Mr. Worthley said he was totally at a loss to account for the fire. Mr. B. C. Worthley, his father, had paid a visit to the premises at 2.30 p.m. for the purpose of assuring himself that everything was in order before going for a motor drive. His father found everything all right, and did not know of the fire until his return at 5 o'clock. He doubted whether a fusing of the electric wires was the cause, because from all accounts the fire seemed to have started in the loft, and from what he remembered the wires did not go near that quarter.

Work of the Brigade Praised.

"The brigade made a wonderful save," he said, "and we desire, to express our warmest thanks to them. They were on the spot in about two minutes of the alarm being given and, having the assistance of a good pressure of water, were able to prevent the flames from reaching the front part of the premises. Had the front shop been attacked everything would have gone up." According to Mr. Worthley, it is the intention of the firm to rebuild again as early as possible. They would be put to a lot of inconvenience in the meantime, but would make up-to-date additions to their present building. As soon as things were cleared up a little they would go into the matter of re-building.

Age (Melbourne, Vic. : 1854 - 1954), Monday 17 November 1924, page 10

FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

VOLUNTEER FIREMAN INJURED.

ADELAIDE.—Thousands of spectators witnessed a fine save by a volunteer fire brigade at Hindmarsh on Sunday afternoon in the carpet and linoleum department of R. C. Worthley's furniture emporium, Port-road, Brompton. The fire was checked before the main building

was damaged. The building and contents were partially insured in the Colonial Mutual company. A fireman named Ray Woods, one of three brothers in the brigade, while chopping down a burning post, drove an axe into his instep, severing an artery.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 18 November 1924, page 10

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Hindmarsh Brigade Praised

Eulogistic references to the fine work of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade on Sunday at the fire at Worthley's were made at the Hindmarsh Town Council last night. In moving that, the council express its great appreciation of the work done by the brigade, and that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the brigade. Cr. C. V. Jervis said that the wonderful work of the firefighters showed how much astray were those people who thought that professional firemen were more efficient than their own. No professional brigade could have done better. It was remarkable how quickly the fire responded to their efforts to subdue it. No words could pay adequate tribute to the firemen, who because of their civic pride did such admirable work. They took a lot of risks fearlessly. This had been going on in their midst for 40 years. It was a fine record. Cr. C. Trembath said he felt like raising his hat to the firemen. It had often been said that if a big fire broke out the brigade would not be able to cope with it. The brigade was a credit to the town. Cr. McKay said that the strongest objector to the rate would now admit that the expenditure was justified. Cr. Hughes said that the fire upheld the reputation of the brigade rather than made it. He understood that the firemen were insured against accident to the extent of £1 a week. He considered it was their duty to see that these men were adequately protected for the risk they took. Cr. Steele said the fire should impress upon the merchants and large business men of the town their financial obligations of the brigade. Mr. F. W. Dinnis (mayor) joined in the congratulations and expressed sympathy with Fireman Ray Wood in his accident. Ald. Wood thanked members, and said that he was proud that three of his boys were on duty at the fire. A resolution expressing sympathy with Mr. P. C. Hocking (station officer), who injured his hand, was also adopted.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 19 November 1924, page 11

VOLUNTEER LABOR

OBJECTION BY FIREMEN

Permanent Men Concerned

Claiming that labor, whether in the firefighting or any other industry is worthy of its hire, Mr. H. T. Sayers (station officer of the Adelaide Fire Brigade) today put forward a plea for the consideration of the disbandment of volunteer fire brigades. Permanent firemen, he said, were much concerned at the probable increase in the volunteer system of firefighting. He did not think the volunteer firemen themselves realised the exact nature of their position. They were in reality taking the bread from the wives and families of permanent fire brigade men. If the volunteer system were increased, as it showed a tendency to be, it would mean that permanent men would be displaced. The volunteers were not working in their own interests, but for the benefit of the insurance companies. He thought it essential that public attention should be drawn to the matter in the interests of the firefighting industry.

DEPARTURE FROM PRINCIPLE

All the volunteers were workers who admitted the principle that labor was worthy of its hire and yet they departed from that principle in one particular industry. Why not carry the thing to its logical conclusion and organise the whole of industry on the volunteer principle? Why not volunteer police and volunteer railwaymen. They knew what those men would say if free labor was suggested. Mr. Sayers said he had noticed that Ald. Wood, who, he believed, was a labor man, said at the Hindmarsh Council that he was proud that his three boys were at the recent fire at Hindmarsh as volunteer firemen. "How would Ald. Wood like three of us firemen to go and take the positions occupied by his boys in industry for a day as volunteer laborers?" Mr. Sayers asked. Yet, he said, that was what the membership of a volunteer fire brigade of Ald. Woods' boys meant to permanent men.

"ALWAYS READY"

Mr. Sayers pointed out that in connection with firefighting, if a building was to be saved the crucial time was the first few minutes, and it was often a matter of impossibility for volunteer men, who were scattered, to get to the seat of the outbreak in that time, whereas the permanent men who were always ready in training were able to be on the spot immediately. He had no doubt that the volunteer firemen were good men and good citizens, but he thought they did not realise just what that phase of their activities meant. Mr. Sayers pointed out that there was a strong movement for the disbandment of volunteer fire brigades in Western Australia where there had been a reduction of 28 permanent men out of a staff of 85 since 1914 owing to the encroachments of the volunteer system.

THE VOLUNTEERS' SIDE

Supt. Plenty in Defence

When Mr. Sayers' statement was referred to Mr. G. J. Plenty (superintendent of the Hindmarsh Voluntary Fire Brigade) he said that he considers that all the suburbs round Adelaide could be adequately protected by a good volunteer system. The permanent brigade was too costly to the Government, to the fire insurance companies, and to the municipalities. It was an expenditure that did not show a return. At present he thought they were going too much on permanent brigades. Mr. Plenty said that he would have a permanent staff in the city, but he would also have it doing something that would show a return. The fires were so few and far between that those men were doing practically nothing at times. If they had permanent brigades in every suburb the whole thing would become too costly. The work of the volunteer brigade at Hindmarsh, Mr. Plenty continued, had proved its efficiency. It had stopped the fire on Sunday, but the permanent men had not been successful in doing likewise at a recent outbreak in the city. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade had protected the citizens of Thebarton from fire for 35 years. During that period £5,000 damage had been done. Under the metropolitan system, which Thebarton had now adopted its brigade was costing that town £2,500 a year to maintain. Mr. Plenty, who is proud of the magnificent record of his men, is of opinion that the volunteer system will meet the need of every suburb, and that experience proves that it is a great money saver.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 20 November 1924, page 6

Volunteer Fire Brigades

Ald. W. Wood, Government road, Croydon:—Station Officer Sayers, of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, is evidently deeply concerned about the activities of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Every now and then a wail goes up from someone connected with the permanent brigade in Adelaide when the great efficiency of a volunteer brigade comes under notice. I consider the criticism of Station Officer Sayers to be the finest possible tribute to the effectiveness of our Hindmarsh brigade. Mr. Sayers makes a number of charges which he cannot substantiate. He says that volunteer firemen are engaged in taking the bread and butter out of the mouths of the permanent men and their families. On the contrary our brigade is costing our rate-payers only a few hundred pounds annually, whereas a permanent brigade would cost at least £2,000. Despite what Mr. Sayers says we are certain that our property is more adequately protected. The difference between the cost of a volunteer and a permanent brigade is employing several times the number of Hindmarsh people that a permanent brigade would provide occupations for. We are satisfied that we have a fine brigade which is doing no injustice, but by saving ratepayers money in respect to such an uncertain industry as fire fighting is employing more than twice the number of men in other ways.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 21 November 1924, page 5

Fire in Brickyard

Prompt work by the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade at 2.15 o'clock today saved the outbuildings of the brickyard belonging to Mr. H. Wakefield, of McDonnell avenue, West Hindmarsh. When the alarm was given by Mr. Leonard Ingham the fire had a good hold. About two tons of wood were destroyed. The men were at lunch when the outbreak occurred. It is thought that the heat of the kiln set alight to the wood.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 1 December 1924, page 1

FIRE AT CROYDON

Three Motors Destroyed

TWO USED AS BUSES

Two motor buses belonging to Mr. C. H. MacKenzie and used for conveying passengers from Croydon to Adelaide, and a motor car owned by Mr. J. MacKenzie, were destroyed by fire shortly after 11.30 o'clock last night at West Croydon. About 11.50 o'clock the Woodville volunteer fire brigade received four alarms, and a telephone call (from Mr. H. C. Freburg) and the Hindmarsh brigade one telephone call to a fire which had broken out in a wood and iron garage at the rear of Mr. J. MacKenzie's house in Henry street, West Croydon, in which were housed the two motor buses and the motor car. The former were damaged beyond repair, but the engine of the motor car is reported to be in fairly good condition. All that was left of a masher dray were the iron tyres of the wheels. The Hindmarsh brigade used 600 feet of hose, and the Woodville brigade 500 feet. Constables T. C. Bjorkland and D. J. O'Leary were on the scene.

MACHINES INSURED

In addition to other damage about £150 worth of motor tyres and tubes was destroyed. The motor car was insured in the West Australian Insurance Company for £150. The shed and contents owned by Mr. J. McKenzie (father of the owner of the buses) were insured in the

Palatine Insurance Company for £160, the estimated damage being £250. His total loss is estimated at £500. The larger of the buses was insured in the Colonial Mutual Insurance Company for £600, and the other one was covered with the Western Australian Insurance Company to the extent of £390. Forty gallons of oil which was stored in the shed caught fire.

NEIGHBORS' LOSSES

Mr. B. Willis, who lives in Robert street, immediately at the rear of the outbreak, also suffered loss. His wood and iron shed was burnt, and two sets of harness, 15 cwt. of hay, two bags of chaff, two bags of pollard, and half a bag of wheat, were damaged. Damage done to his property was estimated at £40. It was not insured. Fortunately his pony was not in the stable at the time of the fire. Mrs. Willis was in bed when she heard what sounded like two or three loud bumps, and then she saw the reflection of a fire. She called to her husband, and they succeeded in saving a masher dray, a sulky, and some tools. Mr. H. J. Walters, who lives next to Mr. Willis, in Robert street, had his back fence destroyed. More than two dozen fowls belonging to Mr. J. MacKenzie were roasted by the fire.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 5 December 1924, page 8

PERSONAL

Deputy Superintendent S. Hocking has been connected with the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade for 30 years. On Wednesday night, at the weekly parade, he was presented with a silver bar in recognition of his services. Station Officer P. G. Hocking was also presented with a silver bar for 20 years' services.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 13 December 1924, page 8

GRASS FIRE.

On Friday afternoon the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to a grass fire on the property of Mr. W. H. Medwell, of New Hindmarsh. A part of a fence was burnt, but the work of the brigade prevented further damage to the surrounding property.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 13 December 1924, page 3

Fire Fighters Praised

Fifteen to twenty acres of grass on the property of Mr. W. H. Medwell, of New Hindmarsh, were destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon. Mr. Medwell paid a tribute to the work of Mr. Henry Wakefield, a brickmaker, and several other workmen, who rendered assistance, until the arrival of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade, in fighting the fire. Mr. Medwell is also pleased with the work of the brigade and the police, who, in conjunction with Mr. Wakefield and his assistants, saved the adjoining properties.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 22 December 1924, page 11

SMALL FIRE AT THE GLASSWORKS.

At about 4 a.m. on Sunday the Woodville Volunteer Fire Brigade were called to a fire at the South Australian Glass Manufacturing Company's premises at Kilkenny. Fifteen men were soon at the scene of a small fire which had been caused through a breakaway at the furnace, where from 300 to 400 tons of molten metal was being heated. The prompt response made by the brigade prevented the flames from spreading to other parts of the works. Later in the

morning the brigade were again called to a fire in a pughole near the Shearer's Works, Kilkenny, which was quickly put out.

Just before midnight on Saturday the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade were called to a fire in a pughole in Brown-street, Brompton. The men prevented the flames from spreading to property near by.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 30 December 1924, page 5

FIRE AT BOWDEN

About £100 damage was caused by a fire which broke out in a shop occupied by Mr. A. G. Truman, collar maker, of 116 Gibson street, Bowden, at 5 p.m. yesterday. The alarm was given by Mr. John Conroy. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was quickly on the scene and got the fire under control. Mr. Truman and his family were away during the day and did not return until 9.30 p.m. Saddlery accessories, furniture, and fittings were destroyed. They were insured in the Mercantile Insurance Company. The adjoining building, which is owned by Mr. W. Wood, of Croydon, was slightly damaged. It is insured in the Guardian Insurance Company.

1925

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 15 January 1925, page 8

Brickyard Blaze

Several tons of wood were destroyed by fire at a brickyard in Welland avenue, Welland, this afternoon. The Hindmarsh and Woodville Volunteer Fire Brigades were in attendance.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 15 January 1925, page 5

FIRE AT CROYDON

Drapery Shop Guttled

ESTIMATED DAMAGE £1,400

Damage estimated at £1,400 was caused by a fire at the shop of Mr. P. H. Hancock, draper, of Croydon, early this morning. The stock and fittings were insured for £1,800 in the General Fire, Accident, and Life Association. Crackling sounds emanating from his shop aroused Mr. Hancock, whose combined shop and dwelling is at the corner of Elizabeth and Robert streets, Croydon, shortly after 1 o'clock this morning. He saw smoke entering the bedroom, which is near the shop. As he opened the door leading to the shop, which measures 48 ft. by 24 ft., a tongue of flame shot out, burning his hand slightly. He promptly closed the door, and thus prevented the draught from driving the flames into the residential quarters, which, like the shop, are constructed of brick and stone.. Being unable to use the telephone, which is in the shop, Mr. Hancock rushed to the telephone box at the post office and by this means communicated with the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade.

HOSE TOO SHORT

The brigade appeared unusually long in making an appearance, and in desperation Mr. Hancock ran barefooted to the fire alarm at the corner of Henry and Thomas streets, and with his fist smashed the glass and turned the handle. While awaiting the arrival of the Brigade Mr. Hancock used his garden hose, but as it was six feet shorter than the length

required to reach the shop and the water pressure was not strong, it was of no use. Unfortunately the motor reel broke down on its way from the fire station, and some minutes' delay in its arrival was caused. As the motor turned into John street from Manton street a front axle broke. This necessitated the use of the hand reels, which were speedily brought along. Mr. Hancock described the delay as agonising. While he was waiting for the firemen he located the fire plug and got it in readiness for them. The shop which has a large double front is heavily timbered at the roof. This timber was much affected, the Brigade doing good work.

BURGLARS SUGGESTED

A three-ply panel of the back door of the shop, which is conveniently accessible to persons of criminal instinct, was hacked by a sharp instrument and a piece about six inches by three inches was cut out just above the Yale lock. It is thought by an assistant that burglars entered the premises and in a search for money had strewn the contents of cabinets and boxes over the floor, and had afterwards either by accident or design set fire to the place, which contained much inflammable material. There was not much in the shop that escaped damage from either fire or water. A quantity of new stock which arrived yesterday was included. The plate glass windows were not broken. Mrs. Hancock and her two children were away on a holiday at the time of the outbreak.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 16 January 1925, page 8

ACCIDENT TO FIRE REEL.

In responding to a telephone call to a fire between 1 and 2 o'clock on Thursday morning, the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade's motor reel was considerably damaged. The accident happened at the corner of Manton and John streets, Hind-marsh. Fortunately there were no injuries to the firemen, but it was impossible for the fire engine to proceed on its journey, as the front wheels were broken and both axles bent. Hand reels were then taken to the scene of the outbreak.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 24 January 1925, page 1

STORY OF HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE

Forty Years of Volunteer Service

MUCH VALUABLE PROPERTY SAVED

Since 1884 the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade has worked itself up to be one of the most efficient volunteer fire brigades in the State. It started with one only two-wheel hand reel and a roll of 8 firemen, and at present, it has 31 firemen, hose reel, motor reel, and, what is most necessary to a manufacturing district like Hindmarsh, a Dennis pump of most modern design. In addition, they have two motor ambulances, one which is said to be the most up to date of its kind in the State.

Recognising the necessity of adequate fire fighting appliances in the district, several leading manufacturers decided in November 1884 to form a Volunteer Fire Brigade. Mr. J. M. Reid, now managing director of J. M Reid & Sons, was elected superintendent, and it was not long afterwards that a station was erected on the Port Road, opposite the police station. It was installed with a two-wheeled hand reel. Within one month the Fire Brigade was an

accomplished fact, eight firemen having been enrolled. The history of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade makes interesting reading, and it reflects the highest credit upon those who pioneered and have since carried on the work. Soon after its formation the equipment was only a hand reel. Several large fires occurred, and were effectively subdued. After three years in its original quarters the station was moved to the present site in Hindmarsh place That was 37 years ago. A horse reel subsequently supplanted the old hand reel, and on the new premises a high lookout was erected. The building was regarded as one of the most up to date of its kind at that period, and provided ample space for the reel, a recreation room, and a bedroom, in which a switchboard was fixed, for the men who slept on at night. Hindmarsh had always been a large manufacturing district, and has a variety of factories and big works such as brick kilns, tanneries, potteries, breweries, gas works, founderies, rope, soap, and skin works. These all needed a great amount of fire protection. Magic Hooter How the brigade receives its calls is one of the most interesting phases of its work. Throughout the district many alarm boxes are scattered. When the alarm is given the shutter on the brigade's switch drops, and the loud clanging of an electric bell follows. Simultaneously a noisy hooter, quite distinct to tone from that used daily, is sounded at the Brompton gasworks. The one call operates both switch-boards, and the hooter can be heard for miles around. It is commonly known as the 'Bully.' When it sounds it is the signal for residents to hurry to the scene of the fire. Citizens have learned to ascertain the locality of a fire by the manner in which the hooter is sounded. A continuous blast indicates that the fire is on the Hindmarsh side of the railway line, and a series of short blows tells it is on the Brompton side. Since its formation the brigade has bene gradually improved upon until now it is regarded as one of the best volunteer fire brigades in this State. After 11 years service with the old hand reel a modern horse reel was obtained, which greatly facilitated the work of the fire fighters. Recently when two ambulances and a Dennis pump were added to the brigade's plant a larger building was found necessary. It is now being constructed on the same site, and when completed will occupy the whole block. Past Superintendent Speaks Mr. J. M. Reid was the first superintendent of the brigade. He held that office for 16 years. Although he retired in 1900 he still takes a keen interest in the work of the brigade. "The volunteers," said Mr. Reid, "have kept together, and by paying close attention to their work have built up one of the most efficient volunteer fire brigades in the State." Explaining how the brigade came to be formed, Mr. Reid said that the first meeting was called in November, 1884. It was held in the late Mr. J. King's office at Hindmarsh. When the question was put whether a volunteer fire brigade could be formed, those present be-came enthusiastic. Assistance was promptly given to the project by the leading manufacturers of the district. With that help the nucleus of the brigade was formed. We then obtained about £100 worth of plant. A deed of trust was drawn up and handed to the Hindmarsh Corporation. The brigade was quickly formed, and with seven men and myself, were ready either day or night to go immediately the magic hooter called us to a fire. Manufacturers of the district showed practical interest in our work by sending men from their factories, to assist if we had a big fire. Sometimes the help was most welcome. With a rapidly growing district, which required greater protection, it was found necessary to establish a number of out stations, which have proved a great success. We were deeply grateful to the South Australian Gas Company for al-owing us to connect the alarms with the engine room of the Brompton Gas works, that as soon as an alarm was given, it immediately showed the call at the gasworks, where the engineer in charge sounded the hooter. The alarm boxes were provided by the manufacturers, in recognition of the good work which we performed at some of the fires.

The brigade has also attended large fires in Adelaide when called upon. Taken for London Firemen While L was a member of the brigade I and other volunteer firemen went to Melbourne to witness a demonstration of volunteer firemen, with the object of securing ideas which might help to improve our brigade. We wore our uniform and helmets, which caused many people to believe that we were London firemen. "I am pleased to say that from the day the Hindmarsh Brigade was formed until the present, it has never had to look back. "Everything that is necessary for fighting fires, Hindmarsh now has." When Mr. Reid retired, Mr. James Duncan succeeded him as superintendent. He held that office until 1912, when Mr. G. J. Plenty, present superintendent, was promoted to the position. Long Service Records Men on becoming associated with the Hindmarsh Brigade always remained with it for a long period of service. Former Deputy Superintendent A. E. Wakefield, who has been a member of the brigade for 31 years, and who retired a few months ago, still turns out to fires. He has attended from 350 to 400 fires and false alarms. Deputy-Superintendent S. Hocking has been with the brigade for 30 years. His record shows that he has been present at 375 calls. Ex-Superintendent J. Duncan served 27 years, for 12 of which he held the office of Superintendent. Superintendent G. J. Plenty has also a record of 27 years, and has held his present position for 13 years. Lieut. E. S. Smith has been actively connected with the brigade for 24 years, and Station Officer P. Hocking for 21 years. After a fireman has served five years with the brigade a certificate is presented to him. When his services reach 20 years he receives a silver bar. At present there are two holders of the 30 year bar, while four members have the 20 years' bar. Large Fires Attended The largest fire which the brigade has had to fight was that at Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons, soap factory, at Southwark on Christmas Eve, 1907. It had to be watched for several days, as it was likely at any minute to burst out afresh. Another great conflagration was at the Croydon Rope and Nail Works in 1912. Seven years later the rope works again caught fire, and 25 members out of 26 turned out to it. Many of the fires have broken out in the night, one of the largest being at J. King & Sons timber works. Hindmarsh, in which 20 men responded. There was a full muster— 29 men— at the blaze at Mitchell's Skin Works, Hindmarsh, in May, 1912, at which many former members also assisted. Only a few months ago Worthleys furnishing emporium caught fire, and through the work of the brigade thousands of pounds worth of stock were saved. Thirty men turned out on that occasion. Nicknaws have been applied to many of the firemen, as well as the horse. Mr. A. E. Wakefield is known as old "Skipper," and the first horse the brigade had was known as "Colonel," and the present equine has two names, some call him "Jimmy," and others "Duncan," after ex-Superintendent Duncan. Work of the Ambulance It was on Saturday, June 25, 1921, that a motor ambulance was opened by Lady Weigall, its object, being to serve residents of Hindmarsh. Owing to the heavy work another ambulance was found necessary. It was obtained in September last. It is claimed to be the most up-to-date in the State. Until this was secured the first ambulance responded to 2,101 calls. Since the new ambulance arrived the calls have increased to 2,228. These two ambulances are also conducted under the volunteer system, and with an officer continually in attendance, they are always ready to go to any call. The new ambulance is replete with all requirements for attending the sick and injured.



PIONEERS OF HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE— First firemen enrolled with the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1884, standing in front of their first station on the Port road, with the hand reel, which at that time was the only appliance owned by the brigade.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 4 February 1925, page 12

FIRE AT A BRICKYARD.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to a small fire in the yards of the Welland Brick Company, about 2 o'clock on Tuesday morning. A stack of wood, containing about 10 tons, was partly destroyed. The brigade prevented the flames from spreading to shelter sheds close by.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 24 February 1925, page 13

LAST OF THE FIREMEN'S MASCOT.

Recently the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade found it necessary to dispose of their reel-horse, best known as Jimmy Duncan, which was named after ex-Superintendent J. Duncan. This horse was an upstanding chesnut gelding, of wonderful speed and endurance, and was the mascot and friend of the firemen, whose attention to his welfare and comfort was unremitting. Thirteen years of continuous service stood to his credit, but, owing to advancing years and the appearance of a rupture his resignation was found necessary. Rather than sell him for outside service, which might have meant ill-treatment, the firemen decided to have his life ended painlessly. Accordingly Jimmy was presented to the Adelaide Zoo. His skin will be tanned, and a silver plate attached, stating the animal's record of service, and this will be kept at the fire station rooms. The horse was a great pet, and would nose into the firemen's pockets looking for sweets. At the call of fire the stable rail was dropped, and the intelligent animal, running to his position, was in harness and on the move in less than one minute. The horse reel will pass from active service, and, in addition to the present motor reel, a modern Dennis pump will be placed in commission. A garage for the housing of the motors is under construction.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 30 March 1925, page 5

FIRE ON LORRY

Extinguished by Sand

By throwing sand on a fire which broke out in a motor lorry laden with cases of petrol at the corner of the Port road and John street, Hindmarsh, about 10.30 this morning, a serious explosion was averted by Mr. Ivan C. Messenger, driver of the vehicle. A fire alarm was broken by Mr. Roy S. Baker, and the local Brigade was quickly in attendance. The engine of the lorry, which is the property of Messrs. J. Dring and Son, carriers, Hindmarsh, was slightly damaged. Nobody was injured.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 11 April 1925, page 7

HINDMARSH BRIGADE'S APPLIANCES.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Motor Ambulance's new machine recently purchased has been largely availed of. Mainly through the gift of about £1,000 from the Hindmarsh Municipal Council, the brigade's fighting appliances have been brought up to date by the purchase of a Dennis motor fire pump, which cost about £1,250. To accommodate the new ambulance and fire pump, the fire station and garage have been remodelled, and the building now completed is capacious and of modern design. The brigade is equipped, in addition to the new motor pump, with a motor reel with ladder, and accessories for a staff of 30 men. Hand reels are stationed at various points in the town for use in emergency. A subsidy of £750 was received from the Government toward the cost of the new building. The contractors, Messrs. Kennett Brothers, did the work at cost price.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 11 April 1925, page 10

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER BRIGADE.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and Ambulance have for years set apart Good Friday as a day of relaxation and enjoyment. The recreation club, of the brigade controls the day's proceedings, and arranges a comprehensive programme, which begins with a four-rink bowling match, and concludes with a concert at night. The dinner, on a lavish scale, is provided by the men, and is attended to at the station by members of the brigade. Duties to other members include waiting on the tables and clearing up. The system is a credit to the management, and affords a tribute to the mens loyalty to their officers, for each man has a duty detailed, and carries it out willingly and promptly. By courtesy of the Hindmarsh Bowling Club the bowls match is played on its rinks, and the bowls are lent by the members. Friday's game provided a pleasant morning's enjoyment. About 60 men sat down to dinner, and included among the guests were the acting Mayor (Mr. G Wright), Mr. A. J. Blackwell ex-Superintendent Duncan, and Mr. H. Ray, of the Gas Company. Superintendent G. J. Plenty presided. After the loyal toasts Ambulance Officer McCarthy proposed "Parliament and the Hindmarsh Council." He said that the present Parliament had assisted the people by promoting the thousand homes scheme. When the brigade and ambulance officers had approached the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. Jelley) for a grant, it was readily given. But for the municipal council the brigade would not have had its new Dennis tur-bine fire pump, which cost about £1,250. Mr. A. J. Blackwell supported. He was more than pleased to see the fine comradeship among the men of the brigade. Ald. Wright (Acting Mayor) said the Hindmarsh Corporation appreciated the work of the brigade. Its new fire fighting machine was a credit to the town, and its purchase was brought about by imposing a farthing rate. Supt. Plenty

submitted "Visitors and kindred brigades." He said they would like to invite more to their function, but their accommodation was limited. He was pleased to see Ald. Wright present, for he had done good service by fighting hard for them in the difficulty with the Metropolitan Brigade. Supt Philips (Woodville Volunteer Brigade) and Mr. Olsen replied. The toast of "The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade Recreation Club was submitted by ex-Fireman T. Lonnen. He said he did not believe any district in South Australia had better fire protection than was given by the Hindmarsh Brigade. Fireman Curtis replied. "The press" was submitted by Lieut. E. Smith. An enlarged framed photograph of the recent fire at Messrs. R. C. Worthley's was presented by the firm to the brigade in recognition of its valuable services on that occasion. The afternoon was taken up with amusements, and a game of bowls. Tea was served in the station. A musical programme was discoursed in the evening.

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

HINDMARSH FIRE STATION

Official Opening Tuesday It has been definitely decided that the new Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Station will be officially opened next Tuesday evening by the Hon. J. Jelley (Chief Secretary). Invitations have been sent to the members of the council and residents of Hindmarsh are cordially invited by Superintendent P. J. Plenty. There will be a turn-out of the motor reel and Dennis motor pump, and the two new ambulances will be on view.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 20 April 1925, page 9

HINDMARSH FIREFIGHTERS

Additions to Premises

One of the finest suburban fire stations in the Commonwealth is at Hindmarsh. A band of local volunteer fire fighters have given fine service to the town. A new building, which cost nearly £1,000 and towards which the Government contributed £750, and other additions to the premises will be officially declared open at a function tomorrow evening, when there will be a public inspection. A Dennis motor pump has been in-stalled at a cost of £1,250, towards which the local town council voted £1,000. In addition to the Dennis pump the brigade has a motor reel and two motor ambulances. One of the ambulances will be reconstructed and used as a salvage waggon. The premises are kept spotlessly clean, and reflect great credit on the volunteers. In addition to the board and officers' rooms there are watch, re-creation, and ambulance rest rooms.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 20 April 1925, page 3

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

The Chief Secretary (Hon. J. Jelley) will perform the opening ceremony on Tuesday evening of the new station erected for the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and Ambulance. The building is a commodious one, and will house the two modern motor ambulances, a new Dennis motor fire pump, and the motor reel. In addition there is an ambulance rest room, and officers' board and watch rooms. The cost of the structure was approximately £1,000, of which the Government contributed £750. The old station, which is at the rear of the new premises, has a recreation room well equipped. It is proposed to use the main portion of the original structure as a workroom, where the men can be instructed in various trades. The

brigade and ambulance are two of the towns most serviceable organizations, and since their establishment have been of great use to the citizens. The ambulance section was started with one up-to-date machine, but owing to the increased demands for its use, a second machine was purchased. Both ambulances are in frequent demand. The Adelaide Ambulance Transport Society also presented their ambulance to the Hindmarsh staff, and it has been fitted up as a salvage wagon. The fire-fighting appliances of the brigade are up-to-date, and would be a credit to any brigade in the Commonwealth. The staff comprises more than 30 men, who are fully equipped with firemen's outfits. The new Dennis motor pump cost about £1,250 landed in the State, and since then further sums have been expended in necessary fittings. The local council provided £1,000 towards the cost. Messrs. Kennett Brothers, the contractors for the new station, gave £100 of their price for the job as a subscription.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 20 April 1925, page 9

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

The official opening of the new station of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and Ambulance will take place to-morrow evening. The Chief Secretary (Hon. J. Jelley) will perform the ceremony. The voluntary brigade has made rapid progress during recent years. The new station is one of the finest stations owned by a suburban brigade in the Commonwealth. The town council voted £1,000 last year towards the purchase of a Dennis motor pump, which has now been installed at a cost of £1,250. The council also pays an annual subsidy to the brigade. The Government provided £7.50 to help in the construction of the new building, which cost about £1,000. Besides the Dennis pump the brigade has a motor reel and two motor ambulances. One of the latter was handed over to the brigade from the Adelaide Ambulance Transport, is being reconstructed, and will be used as a salvage waggon. The building contains an officers' room, boardroom, watch room. recreation-room, and ambulance rest-room. It will be thrown, open to the public for inspection, on Tuesday evening.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 21 April 1925, page 2

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE

Improvements at Station

In the annual report of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade reference is made to the purchase of a Dennis turbine fire pump, which has recently been housed at the station. The pump will make the plant up to date. The brigade's request to the Government for a subsidy to build additions to the station resulted in £750 being granted. The total number of calls to fires and supposed fires during the year was 27, with an average attendance at each call of 16 members. Seven thousand feet of hose was used. The estimated damage to property by fire was £7,700, and the estimated amount of property saved from being destroyed is set down at £93,900. There were 12 false alarms. ten being by men working on the telephone lines, or line trouble. The other two were of a malicious nature. During the year 15 of the 27 calls were made between 6 o'clock in the morning and 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and employers of firemen were not inconvenienced to any great extent. Members attended six special parades, with an average attendance of 26. At five church parades the average attendance was 36 members. At the weekly parades there was an average of 23. The present strength of the brigade is 32 members, including the following officers: —Messrs. G. J. Plenty (superintendent), S. E. Hocking (deputy superintendent), E. Smith (lieutenant), P. G.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

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11 December 2024

Hocking (station officer and secretary and treasurer), A. J. Battersby (foreman), J. Cox (engineer and electrician), H. P. Williams (hon. dental surgeon). W. R. Ray (hon. solicitor), J. James and L. J. Martin (hon. auditors), and Dr. G. H. B. Black (hon. surgeon. Sympathetic references are made in the report to the deaths of Mr. George Comley, who, as secretary, carried out his duties with marked ability, and to the late Dr. J. H. Evans, who had always been ready to assist the brigade in his capacity as honorary surgeon. The balance sheet shows that the receipts for the year amounted to £1,749 2/4, including £1,000 (for Dennis pump) and £65 from the Hindmarsh Corporation, £250 (for Dennis Pump) and £50 from the Underwriters' Association, £112 for fire-men engaged at public entertainments, £48 10/6 private donations, and £25 each from Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons and R. C. Worthley & Sons. Expenditure includes £1,240 15/1 for Dennis pump, £83 10/ for firemen at public entertainments, and £51 16/6 for uniforms, boots, and repairs. The additions to the station will be declared open this evening by the Hon. J. Jelley (Chief Secretary), Ald. G. Wright (acting Mayor of Hindmarsh) and members of the Hindmarsh Council will be present. The brigade will give a demonstration.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 22 April 1925, page 11

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE.

New Station Opened.

As the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade has purchased more valuable fire-fighting appliances, in addition to a new ambulance secured by the ambulance staff, it was necessary to enlarge the station. The building cost approximately £1,000, the Government granting a subsidy of £750. Besides an up-to-date reel, a Dennis turbine fire pump has been purchased to the value of about £1,250. The Hindmarsh Corporation donated £1,000, and the Underwriters' Association £250 towards the machine. The opening ceremony took place on Tuesday. Outside the station the Chief Secretary, (Hon. J. Jelley) and Mrs. Jelley were received by a guard of honour composed of firemen and ambulance staff. The superintendent (Mr. G. J. Plenty) stated that it was chiefly due to the efforts of the Chief Secretary that the erection of the new building was made possible. In the firemen's desire to bring the brigade appliances up to date, the Hind-marsh Corporation, on being approached, allocated £1,000 towards the cost. Mr. Blackwell. M.P., said that when the Chief Secretary made an inspection of the brigade, a deputation waited upon him, and the facts induced Mr. Jelley to favour the granting of £750. The Chief Secretary stated that one of the reasons for granting the request was that the people of Hindmarsh, although not a wealthy community, were usually able to finance their own undertakings. They were among the most self-reliant citizens of the State. He expressed his appreciation of the work accomplished by the pioneers of the brigade. The men were justified in feeling proud of their brigade. Their sole desire was to help the community without desire for reward. Ald, G. Wright (acting mayor) said that Hindmarsh had some important and efficient organizations, three of which were present at the gathering, namely, the Fire Brigade, the Ambulance, and the Hindmarsh Band. Ald. W. Wood submitted a vote of thanks to the contractors, Messrs. Kennett Brothers, and the architect, Mr. E. Goudge, which was carried. A clock, which has been placed in front of the building, was presented by Mr. E. Bateup. After the opening ceremony, a demonstration was given by the men. The buildings and equipment were then inspected by those present.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 9 June 1925, page 11

FIRE AT BOWDEN.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to a fire in Gibson street, Bowden, at about 1 o'clock on Monday morning. Two attached cottages were found on fire, and the flames were soon under control. The occupiers of the premises were not at home. Nurse Nieass, who lived in one of the houses was in the country; and Mrs. Leffler, the tenant of the other is in a hospital. Ald. W. Wood, of Government road, Croydon, owns the dwellings, which were not insured. Considerable damage was done to the furniture and buildings. The alarm was given by a boy.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 9 June 1925, page 13

FIRE AT BOWDEN.

Shortly after 1 o'clock on Monday morning the Hindmarsh volunteer fire brigade was called to a fire in two attached dwellings in Gibson-street, Bowden. The alarm was given by a lad named Young. The brigade soon had the flames under control. The cause of the fire is not known. Neither of the houses was occupied. It is thought that it began at the rear of the house occupied by Mr. C. J. Nieass, who is at present away in the country. Aided by a breeze the flames quickly travelled through the house, destroying most of the furniture. The adjoining cottage, previously occupied by Mrs. Leffler, was damaged, but the brigade prevented the flames from taking a good hold. The roof of this house was much damaged, and a portion of the back room was burnt. The houses are the property of Mr. W. Wood, of Croydon, and were not insured.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 20 June 1925, page 5

BACK-FIRING MISHAP

Motor Bus Burned

Shortly before 8 o'clock tonight the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a telephone message that the motor bus De Luxe, which runs between Adelaide and Croydon Park, and is owned by Mr. J. H. Gratback, of 130 Coglin street, Brompton Park, was on fire in Hardington street, Yatala. The brigade was promptly on the scene, but found the vehicle well alight and beyond saving. Mr. Gratback, who was driving the bus when the engine back-fired and started a fire, stated that he had no passengers on board, but was on his way to pick up a dance party. The bus was almost totally destroyed, only the front wheels and the radiator being intact after the fire subsided. The damage is estimated at £350.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 25 June 1925, page 11

A SOCIAL EVENING.

A social was rendered by the members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade to their wives and lady friends in the fire station on Tuesday evening. A fine programme was given and supper was served. A jumbled word competition was held, the prize being won by Mrs. J. Incoll. The following contributed to the programme:—Misses E. Burns, McCarty, Messrs. Ben Watson, Boyce, McAllister, and Guest. The accompanists were Mr. Watson and Fireman W. Woods. The arrangements were in the hands of Fireman W. E. Thomas (secretary of the Firemans Recreation Club).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 31 July 1925, page 8

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

Several members of the Underwriters' Association made an inspection of the premises of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and Ambulance on Thursday evening. The visitors were well pleased with the capable way in which the men handled the machines. The brigade has been brought up to date by the addition of a turbine motor pump, and the new buildings recently opened. The recreation-room is now in course of renovation.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 1 October 1925, page 9

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade

At the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and Ambulance last night the firemen's recreation room was officially opened by Mr. C. Kennett before a large attendance of firemen and volunteer workers, who renovated the building. A new full-size billiard table, which was collected for, was uncovered by Superintendent G. J. Plenty, and the first game was played by Messrs. H. Godden and W. Eardley. The unveiling of a neatly-designed board bearing the names of the workers, other than the firemen, was also performed by Superintendent Plenty. The following toasts were honored:— "The King," Superintendent Plenty: "Our Guests," Mr. J. F. Loney; "Recreation Club," Mr. W. Johnson, responded to by Station Officer P. G. Hocking. Vocal and instrumental items were rendered by Messrs. Barlow, E. Stroud, W. Day. P. Hocking, G. Kimber, W. Hall, R. Baltrope, A. Hansen, and Marks.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 9 November 1925, page 3

Fire at Ridleyton

About 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a telephone message that grass at the rear of the premises of Mr. N. E. C. Parham, at 11 Government road, Ridleyton, was alight. A motor shed was slightly damaged and a fence was burned.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 27 November 1925, page 8

PERSONAL.

Mr. A. Battersby, foreman, who has been associated with the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade for 20 years, has been presented with a silver bar to his long-service medal. The decoration was handed over by the superintendent, Mr. G. J. Plenty.

1926

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 9 January 1926, page 11

FIRES AT HINDMARSH.

While subduing a fire in a pughole on Friday afternoon near the Port line railway, the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to a blaze at Mr. E. E. Barrey's brickyard, Torrens avenue, New Hindmarsh, where a stack of 160 tons of wood was on fire. A number of the men were detailed from the first outbreak to the second, and eventually saved half the stack. The damage is estimated at £100.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 14 January 1926, page 4

Sawdust on Fire

Sparks from a rubbish tip caused a fire in a sawdust receptacle in the yard of the Adelaide Rope and Nail Works, Croydon, early this morning. Fourteen members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade turned out to a call at 4.30 and prevented the fire from spreading. The sawdust box is at the side of a pughole. No damage was done.

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

SUBURBAN STATIONS BUSY.

NO SERIOUS OUTBREAK.

The Unley and North Adelaide Fire Brigades had a busy time on Sunday. Fortunately, the outbreaks which they were called upon to extinguish were not of serious character. The Adelaide station also received a call— from Gaza. It proved to be only a woodheap burning at the rear of the O.G. Hotel, and was easily subdued.

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

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

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

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

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 1 March 1926, page 13

SMALL FIRE AT WELLAND.

Just before 8 o'clock on Saturday night the Hindmarsh and Woodville Volunteer Fire Brigades responded to calls to a fire at Mr. W. E. Young's brickyard, Welland South. The blaze was confined to a stack of wood. The prompt arrival of the brigades prevented much damage being done, the loss being estimated at £10.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 25 March 1926, page 7

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

The members of the Hindmarsh Town Council, at the invitation of the local Volunteer Fire Brigade, made an inspection of the fire station on Wednesday evening. A demonstration was given by the brigade with the new Dennis motor pump.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 25 March 1926, page 10

GENERAL NEWS.

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER BRIGADE.

Members of the Hindmarsh Council paid a visit of inspection to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade Station on Wednesday night. They were received by Superintendent G. J. Plenty, and officers. The firemen and ambulance officers gave a demonstration. Favourable comments were made by the visitors at the up-to-date appointments at the station, and the fine type of men who made up the brigade.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 31 March 1926, page 15

FIRE AT CROYDON.

Shortly after 9 p.m. on Tuesday the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to a fire which had broken out on the premises of Mr. J. Stephenson (secretary of the Gas Works Employes' Union), in Hawker-street Croydon. Mr. Stephenson and family were not at home. The brigade found the front bedroom ablaze. A quantity of furniture and bed clothing was destroyed, and the damage is estimated at £150.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 3 April 1926, page 18

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

The annual sports meeting of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was held on Good Friday. The morning was taken up by a four-rink game of bowls on the Hindmarsh green. There were various amusements in the afternoon, and in the evening a musical programme was carried out. The firemen's recreation club was responsible for the arrangements. There was a large number present at the dinner. Superintendent G. J. Plenty presided. Among those present were Messrs. J. McInnes (Speaker of the House of Assembly) and A. J. Blackwell, M.P., the Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. F. K. Nieass), and Alderman W. Wood. Alderman Wood submitted "Parliament and the Press." He said attempts had been made to do away with the volunteer brigade, but he was pleased that they had not been successful. The ambulances were doing remarkably well, and soon they would have another. He paid a tribute to the organising abilities of the superintendent (Mr. G. J. Plenty). The Hindmarsh Town Council regarded the brigade as one of the best assets of the town. Mr. McInnes said if any more attempts were made to do away with the voluntary system he would use his influence, as in the past, to maintain it at Hindmarsh. (Applause.) The work of duplicating the Port-road would begin within the next two months. (Applause.) Mr. Blackwell endorsed the remarks of Mr. McInnes. "The Visitors" was given by Superintendent Plenty and responded to by the Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. F. K. Nieass) and Mr. F. Groves supported. A silent tribute was paid to departed comrades. "The H.V.F.B. Ambulance and Recreation Club" was submitted by Captain Lonnon and responded to by Superintendent Plenty and supported by Deputy Superintendent Hocking and Station Officer P. Hocking.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 3 April 1926, page 10

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

ANNUAL DINNER.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, which now works in conjunction with the Hindmarsh Motor Ambulance, was established in 1884. The brigade and ambulance staff comprise 31 officers, firemen, and first-aid men, and four auxiliary members. The equipment compares favourably with that of any other volunteer fire brigade or permanent suburban station. The men take an interest in the work, and are thoroughly trained firemen. Their loyalty to the brigade is shown by the length of service given. The average service of the officers is 18 years, and that of the men 11 years. That is regarded as a record which cannot be exceeded by any other brigade. Good Friday of each year is set apart for a reunion of past members and a day of enjoyment. The morning is taken up by a four-rink game of bowls on the Hindmarsh Bowling Club's green, adjoining the fire station. In the afternoon various amusements are indulged in, and at the evening session a programme of musical and other entertaining items is carried out. The whole of the arrangements are made by the recreation committee connected with the station. Hot dinner was served and tea provided by the recreation committee, whose members waited on the tables. A large number sat down to dinner. Superintendent G. J. Plenty presided, and submitted the toast of "The King." A silent tribute was paid to departed members. Ald. W. Wood proposed "Parliament and the press." He said they were going to fight any attempt to do away with volunteer fire brigades such as they had at Hindmarsh. The brigade and ambulance were among the greatest assets of the town. It was expected that shortly a third ambulance would be installed. The Hon. J. McInnes, in replying, said that there was an agitation to do away with the volunteer system. There had been no logical reason advanced for dispensing with voluntary fire brigades. His attitude would be to oppose any alteration of the present brigades, and the Hindmarsh volunteer system would have his support. Mr. A. J. Blackwell, M.P., said the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was the principal asset in the town. If any thing was done to disrupt the brigade the residents would have a great deal to say on the question. His sympathy was with the brigade. It would be a long time before a permanent brigade was installed. Superintendent G. J. Plenty gave "The visitors," and referred to the work of ex-Superintendent Duncan and ex-Lieut. E. Wakefield, who were present, and had done a great deal for the brigade in its infancy. The Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. F. K. Nieass) replied. He said that, in view of certain positions he held, a statement was expected from him. There was a principle involved in the question of volunteer fire brigades, and he considered discretion the better part of valour; but whatever he did he would act upon a principle, for that was what counted with him. He had told persons in the city that the Hindmarsh Brigade was unique in Australia, if not in the world. Mr. F. Groves (band) also replied. The "Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and Ambulance Recreation Club" was given by Capt. T. Lonnen. Deputy Superintendent S. Hocking supported, and Station Officer P. G. Hocking (Chairman) replied. The secretary of the Woodville Brigade also spoke.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 17 April 1926, page 4

PUG HOLE FIRE

Twenty members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade responded to a call to a pughole fire in Chief street, Brompton, shortly after 7 o'clock this evening. A dividing fence was destroyed before the outbreak was extinguished. Dept.-Supt. Hocking had charge of operations.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 24 June 1926, page 16

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

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 11 December 2024

To recognise the heroism of Mr. I. F. Kimbly, who rescued Fireman C. J. Plenty from the pit of a gas engine at the ice works recently, the members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade held a social at the fire station on Wednesday evening. The Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. F. K. Nieass) handed Mr. Kimbly a gold medal for his bravery. Superintendent G. J. Plenty, presided. An entertaining programme was provided by the members of the 1926 Snapshot Party, under the management of Miss Hazel McCarthy. Refreshments were provided.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 10 July 1926, page 17

FIRE AT BROMPTON.

Shortly after 9 o'clock on Friday night the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade were called to a fire in a house occupied by Mr. H. Johnson, in Green-street, Brompton. The flames were confined to the front bedroom. The occupants of the house were absent at the time. The damage to the building and furniture is estimated at £150.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 10 July 1926, page 14

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT BROMPTON.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to a fire in Green street, Brompton, shortly after 9 p.m. on Friday. Twenty men, under Superintendent G. J. Plenty, were quickly on the scene of the outbreak, which was in a dwelling, occupied by Mr. H. Johnson. Although the strong wind made the brigade's efforts difficult, a good save was effected. Flames were confined to the front bedroom. The occupants of the house were away from home. The damage is estimated at £150. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

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

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

A social gathering in connection with the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade's Recreation Club was held in the Fire Station, Hindmarsh, on Wednesday night. Superintendent G. J. Plenty presided. The attendance was large. The social was in honour of the ladies and other helpers in the recent effort to raise funds towards the cost of securing a wireless set for the recreation club. The Chairman said that the efforts of the workers had achieved success, with the result that a wireless set would be purchased and installed within the next month. For the queen competition seven of the firemen's wives had competed, the sum of £51 being raised by the competition, and £15 at a frolic. The winner was Mrs. P. G. Hocking, who secured 5,107 votes. Mrs. M. E. Thomas, 3,552, was second. The winner was presented with a silver-mounted oak tray, suitably inscribed. The committee were:— Mesdames Beasley, H. J. Hall, Darling, F. Leedham, P. G. Hocking, Miller, Station Officer P. G. Hocking, Firemen M. E. Thomas (hon. secretary), R. J. Webb, L. Marten, A. Curtis, R. Barltrop. A marble clock was presented to the secretary, Mr. M. E. Thomas. Items of entertainment were contributed by Misses Hall, Scanlon, D. Williams, Carmody, Messrs. B. Woods, E. Stroud, E. Guest, Hall, P. Hocking, Lennell, Raymond, and Scanlon.

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

CASUALTIES.

MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

A motor car, owned by Dr. Webb, of West Croydon, was partially destroyed by fire on Thursday morning. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade prevented the flames from spreading.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 10 September 1926, page 10

A MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

When Mr. W. F. S. Webb, of West Croydon, was attempting to start his motor car at Kilkenny yesterday morning, the engine backfired and the vehicle caught alight. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was summoned and put out the flames. The hood, some of the upholstery, and the dashboard were burnt. The car, which has been in use only about three weeks, was insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 10 November 1926, page 17

MOTOR DESTROYED BY FIRE.

A fire in a shed on the premises of Mr. S. J. Forder, of Swan-street, Grange, on Monday night destroyed the structure and its contents, consisting of secondhand furniture and tools, and a motor car belonging to Mr. O. Miels. The Woodville and Hindmarsh fire brigades were in attendance.

1927

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 14 January 1927, page 6

SOUTH WELLAND FIRE

Wood and Shed Destroyed

As a result of a spark falling on a stack of firewood at the brickyards of Pugh Brothers, South Welland, about 11 o'clock last night 25 tons of wood and a galvanised iron shed were destroyed. The Hindmarsh and Kilkenny fire brigades were called out and prevented the flames from spreading. The loss, which is covered by insurance, is estimated at £50.

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

110 DEG. IN ADELAIDE.

PEAK IN HEAT WAVE REACHED.

COOL CHANGE LIKELY TO-DAY.

FIRES IN GRASS.

Fire brigades were kept busy in the metropolitan area on Thursday. At 10.19 a.m. the brigade at North Adelaide had to give its attention to a grass fire near the corner of Hawker road and Nottage terrace, Medindie. An hour later a call was received from the Lower North road, Ovingham, where a washhouse and fence were alight. When returning from that engagement a grass fire on the Lower North road was extinguished. At 2.18 p.m. the Norwood firemen got their first call, which was to subdue a grass fire near Cowell Brothers' timber yard, on the Parade. At 4.4 pm. the Adelaide station received a call from the South Terrace Railway Station. On arrival it was discovered that grass had been ignited in the western park lands. An hour and a quarter later a reel had to be sent to extinguish a fire in

grass and fencing at Portrush road. Monreith. The Norwood Brigade, which would have had the duty ordinarily, was busy with a grass fire at Alexandar avenue, Toorak. A blaze occurred at Mr. Burford's place, Chief street. Brompton, during the afternoon, when a fowl shed and a quantity of fencing were destroyed. The prompt arrival of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade saved the surrounding buildings. The damage is estimated at £50.

IMPROVING WATER SUPPLIES.

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

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 15 January 1927, page 8

CASUALTIES.

SMALL FIRE AT BROMPTON.

On Friday afternoon the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to a small fire at rear of the Adelaide Pottery Works, Brompton. The blaze started in some grass, and then burnt a fence, and a wood-and-iron shed, the property of Mr. C. White, of Railway terrace, Brompton. The fire was checked when close to a motor shed. In four days the Hindmarsh brigade has responded to eight calls. While returning from a call on Friday, a three-valve collecting head was lost from the Dennis pump engine.

FIRE AT BRICKYARD.

Late on Thursday night a stack of fire-wood at Pugh Brothers' brickyard, Welland, caught alight. About 25 tons of wood and a galvanized iron shed were destroyed. The damage, about £50, is covered by insurance. The Hindmarsh and Kilkenny Volunteer Brigades responded to the call.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 17 January 1927, page 9

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE

Loss of Collecting Head

The heat wave was responsible for Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade having a particularly busy week, being called out to 10 fires in a period of four days. During the rush of work one of the reels broke down, and the brigade had to make use of the Dennis fire pump. On Friday morning a call was received at 5 o'clock to which the Dennis pump was dispatched. On arrival at the fire it was found that the three-head collecting head had fallen from the engine somewhere along the road between the fire station and West street. Brompton. A search was made for the head, which weighs between 45 and 50 lb., but no trace of it could be discovered. The pump is useless without the head, and the brigade requests the finder to communicate either with the Hindmarsh station or ring Central 967.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 25 January 1927, page 1

FIRE AT BOWDEN

Chaff Store Destroyed

HAY AND WOOD BURNED

Fire this morning destroyed the premises of Mr. E. Downs, wood, chaff, and grain merchant, at the corner of Park terrace and Third street, Bowden. The loss is estimated at nearly £1,000. A galvanised iron building was gutted and 43 tons of hay, about 50 tons of mallee roots, a chaff cutter, and an electric motor were burned.

It was only by the vigorous work of Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade that the flames were prevented from spreading to adjoining buildings. The store, which was about 50 ft. square, was situated only about 5 ft. from a cottage in Third street which is occupied by Mrs. E. Burfitt. The flames were endangering this building when neighbors quickly carried the furniture on to the road. There were also a small brick building and a cottage in Park terrace threatened with destruction. Mr. H. Coppins, yardman of Mr. Downs, lives in the latter cottage, and all his household effects were removed from the danger zone. Mr. Downs could not account for the outbreak. He said that he and Mr. Coppins were engaged in bagging chaff at 9 o'clock when they noticed flames rising from the hay in the Third street corner of the store. They quickly secured a hose and played water on to the flames, but found that the fire was getting beyond them and they communicated with Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Mr. Downs said that the hay, which had been in the store about a fortnight, was not insured, but the remainder of his stock and plant was covered by insurance.

Hindmarsh Brigade on arrival connected hose lines from the mains in Park terrace and Third street. The pressure at first was not too strong, but North Adelaide district turncock by shutting down other valves improved the pressure for the fire-fighters. Strenuous efforts were made to save the cottage in Third street. At one time it looked as if the flames would reach it, but the vigorous application of water prevented the fire from attacking the dwelling. During the fire the electric light wires running into the store dropped into Third street, and Deputy Ambulance Officer E. Stroud received a slight shock from which he quickly recovered. Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade has been particularly in demand recently. During the past 10 days 17 fires have been attended.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 26 January 1927, page 10

CHAFF MILL DESTROYED BY FIRE.

ADJOINING RESIDENCES SAVED.

Mr. Ernest William Downs, who conducts the Park View woodyard and chaff mills at Park terrace, Bowden, had his milling shed and a quantity of hay burnt on Tuesday morning. Mr. Downs stated that he noticed the fire at about 9 o'clock, between an iron wall and hay facing Third street, Bowden, and gave the alarm to Mr. Honey, butcher, of Third street, who rang for the fire brigade. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade responded to the call and on arrival at the scene of the outbreak found thick volumes of smoke issuing, and the chaff and building burning fiercely. The adjacent houses were in danger, but the brigade prevented the flames from spreading. The wood and iron building in which the chaff cutting was done was destroyed, and the machinery considerably damaged. The residence occupied by Mr.

William H. Coppins, and the building in which the bran and pollard were stored, were saved. Mr. Downs estimates the damage at £550, including £145 worth of hay, which was not insured. The other contents were insured in the Colonial Mutual Insurance Company for £382. Mr. John H. Barber, of Myall avenue, Kensington Gardens, owns the property, which was insured in the Standard Insurance Company for £200. Superintendent G. J. Plenty stated that there was a good pressure of water, the waterworks turncock shutting off the main, allowed the brigade to get full use from the Dennis pump engine.



After the fire at Mr. E. Downs's, wood, chaff, and grain merchant, at the corner of Park terrace and Third street, Bowden. The man on the left with the bag over his head is a member of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and is so clothed to combat the rising smoke.

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

CASUALTIES.

MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

Late on Wednesday night, in John street, Hindmarsh, a motor car owned and driven by Mr. J. W. Tonkin, motor mechanic, of Falcon avenue, Mile-End, caught alight, probably through back-firing. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called out. Damage to the extent of £50 was caused. The car was insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 1 February 1927, page 13

SHOP GUTTED BY FIRE.

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £1,500.

Damage estimated at £1,500, was done by fire to a shop on the Port-road, Hindmarsh, shortly after 1 a.m. on Monday, the cause of the outbreak is unknown.

While cycling along Port-road, Hindmarsh, at 1.20 a.m. on Monday, Mr. A. A Douglas noticed smoke issuing from under the verandah of the boot shop of Mr. C. R. Beilby. Mr. Douglas notified the police, who communicated with the volunteer fire brigade. Two fire reels and a Dennis pump were dispatched under Lieutenant E. Smith and Station Officer P. G. Hocking,

who were assisted by 25 firemen. On the arrival of the brigade smoke was pouring from the front of the shop and flames were visible inside. Several lines of hose were used from 10-inch mains, and good pressure was obtained. The firemen worked hard, and confined the fire in the shop, which contained a large quantity of boots and shoes. A dwelling of the shop was in considerable danger for a time, but as a result of good work it was saved from receiving severe damage. Occupants of the shops and dwellings close by were aroused by the smoke, which penetrated them. The firemen made a good save. Mr. Beilby and his family live at the shop, but on Saturday afternoon they all left for Victor Harbour, and did not intend to return home till late on Monday. They were notified of the fire by a friend, and returned on Monday afternoon. Mr. Beilby said when they left on Saturday everything was in order, and he could not say what caused the outbreak. The stock was insured with the Colonial and Mutual Fire Insurance Company for £400, and the shop fittings were insured for £60. The stock and fittings were also covered with the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company for £900. A gramophone, which was on view in the shop was destroyed, and was insured with the former company for £40. Mr. Beilby estimated the damage at £1,500. His household furniture was not damaged by fire, but was drenched with water. The shop and the adjoining shop and dwelling which is used as a cafe, are owned by Mr. John Gibbs, of the Semaphore. The cafe is managed by a son of Mr. Gibbs.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 10 February 1927, page 11

THE BRIGADE MISINFORMED.

Shortly after 1 p.m. on Tuesday, the secretary of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and Ambulance (Mr. G. Plenty, jun) received a telephone message from a woman who said that a house in Percy terrace, Croydon, was well alight, and that a woman invalid who was in bed was in a room which was surrounded by smoke and flames. Mr. Plenty dispatched an ambulance and the fire reels. On the arrival of firemen at the place where they were told to go by the woman, only a small grass fire on a vacant allotment was in evidence. The surrounding houses were not in danger. The Woodville Volunteer Brigade, which was also in attendance with the Hindmarsh firemen, subdued the fire. When seen after the call-out, Mr. Plenty said the woman who gave the alarm seemed to be earnest, and spoke in a loud tone, which indicated that something serious had happened. At the time of the call the ambulance officers received a call to take a patient who was in a serious condition to the Adelaide Hospital, and but for the fact that the brigade controls three volunteer ambulances, the consequences of the false alarm might have been serious.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 14 February 1927, page 9

Fire Alarm Damaged

Through having been struck by a bolting horse the fire alarm at the corner of John street and Port road, Hindmarsh, was smashed off from its support on Saturday afternoon.

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

A MOTOR TRUCK DAMAGED.

At 12.50 a.m. on Thursday a motor truck owned by the Milburn Truck Service, King William-street, burst into flames at Nottingham-avenue, Richmond. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was called, and assisted to quell the fire, which was caused by a defective carburettor. The body of the truck was slightly damaged.

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

PERSONAL.

Fireman P. Miller and R. Wood, who attended 52 weekly parades of the Hind-marsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and Ambulance Officer V. Wood (for most ambulance duty during the year) have each been presented with a silver cup by Superintendent G. J. Plenty in behalf of the brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 17 March 1927, page 7

HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE

Satisfactory Position

The annual report and balance sheet of Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade which have just been issued disclose that the organisation is in a good position. The report extends the gratitude of the brigade to those who forwarded donations to the funds, the honorary surgeons, solicitor, and auditors, members of Hindmarsh Police Force, and the South Australian Gas Company. During the year the calls to fires and supposed fires numbered 29, with an average attendance of 15 members. The estimated value of property saved from damage by fire was £5,186. The strength of the brigade was 31 members, and the usual high standard of general efficiency was maintained. The balance sheet shows that the receipts for the period from February 1, 1926, to February 28 last, were £674 16/9, including a balance in the bank of £158. The expenditure was £596 1/8. leaving a bank balance of £78 16/9. Private donations amounted to £70 10/. The plant account shows that the value of the equipment is £3,031 18/4.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 18 March 1927, page 21

THE HINDMARSH FIRE BRIGADE

The annual report and balance-sheet of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade shows that 29 fires were attended during the year by an average of 15 members of the brigade. Property valued at more than £5,000 was saved from destruction by fire. The membership of the brigade numbered 31. The equipment of the brigade is valued at £3,031.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 21 April 1927, page 13

NOTES & QUERIES

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

From A. T. SAUNDERS:— I gather from the published reports that the trades Hall has decided that this volunteer fire brigade must forthwith disband, and jobs at high rates of pay must be found for some of the Trades Hall wire-pullers and job-controllers; if not, then should a fire occur at Hindmarsh, and the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade do its duty, all paid fire brigade men shall in accord with the Trades Hall edict, go on strike and allow the fire to burn out or spread if the Volunteer Fire Brigade cannot subdue it. To this condition have our Liberal and Labour politicians brought us. Before me is an excellent photo, taken by Capt. Sweet in 1885, of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade No. 1, consisting of eight men, also showing the fire reel and the fire station. I have had the photo for many years, and from one of the 1885 brigade (the late Mr. J. H. Reid, of David Reid, who died recently. I received, years ago, the

names of the eight men. The captain was Mr. J. M. Reid, of John Reid & Son, father of the Lady Mayoress; the other seven were: — E. Burnell, of Towers court; James McDonald, who has gone to New Zealand; J. H. Reid of David Reid; John Seeley, of King & Son; James Duncan, of Haussen & Co.; George Coulthard, of King and Son; the late R. B. Scarce, a plumber; and the turncock, whose name the late Mr. J. H. Reid did not remember.

[The photograph mentioned in the article]



*State Library of South Australia - Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh [B 35262] Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade with a fire hose reel.
Approximately 1890.*

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 4 May 1927, page 3

Electric Iron Causes Fire

Through an electric iron having been left standing with the current flowing a safe and some wearing apparel were destroyed and the walls of the room slightly charred at the home of Mrs. Bellis, Manton street, Hindmarsh, yesterday. Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade quickly responded to a call and prevented the fire from spreading.

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

CASUALTIES.

SMALL FIRE AT HINDMARSH.

A small fire occurred at the home of Mrs. Bellis, Manton street, Hindmarsh, shortly before 1 a.m. on Tuesday. Mr. T. Cooper, who was asleep in an adjoining room, was awakened and gave the alarm. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade quickly responded, and subdued the

flames. It is believed that the fire was caused by an electric iron on top of a safe not having been switched off. About £5 worth of goods was destroyed.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 9 May 1927, page 6

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade

R. J. Webb, Croydon:—As a ratepayer of Hindmarsh district I feel that I cannot let this opportunity pass of saying that the Hindmarsh Voluntary Fire Brigade is the most efficient body in the district. "Thirty-eight Years a Resident" should be ashamed of having cast a slur on its members. It must be remembered that these firemen are ever ready to lay down their lives to save those of others and property. There are in the brigade approximately 30 members, 16 of whom are not more than 28 years of age, and who were mere boys when the armistice was signed. Three others had served in the war and six were over age and not eligible. Should another war break out I think that it would be the younger generation which would be needed to shoulder the gun. I cannot imagine that "Thirty-eight Years a Resident" enlisted, otherwise he would use discretion when speaking of those whose fathers and brothers fought.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 4 June 1927, page 1

HINDMARSH FIRE

Smart Work by Brigade Smart work by Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade under Station Officer P. Hocking resulted in little damage today when a fire broke out at the premises of Mr. H. Bevan, painter and decorator, Port road, Hindmarsh. Shortly after 2.30 o'clock flames and smoke were seen issuing from the building, a wood and iron structure, and the brigade was called. It turned out quickly, and as there was a good pressure of water the blaze was extinguished in a few minutes. Portion of the contents, consisting of wallpapers and paints, were burned. The damage is estimated at £30. It is not known whether the contents were insured. The roof beams and walls of the building, which is situated between the Hindmarsh Memorial Institute and the premises of Mr. D. Young, brass founder, had just caught alight when the brigade arrived. A report will be submitted to the coronor by Plainclothes Constable. O'Sullivan, of Hindmarsh.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 8 June 1927, page 10

FINGERS CRUSHED.

While working at the steel foundry of Mason & Cox, Limited, at Southwark, on Tuesday, Mr. K. J. Talbot caught his hand in the cogs of a machine, and the fingers were severely lacerated. He was taken to the Adelaide Hospital by the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, who rendered first aid.

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

THE FLOATING PALAIS.

STUCK ON THE BANK.

Contrary to usual custom, "The Floating Palais" this winter has remained in its usual place near the southern bank of the Torrens and has been utilised for matinee and private dances throughout the winter. The river has been empty for some weeks, but recently after the

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

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 19 November 1927, page 5

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT BRICKYARD.

At 3.45 a.m. on Friday, the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was called to Mr. W. Young's brickyard, Welland South, where a large wood stack was ablaze. The fire was extinguished before much damage was done.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 26 November 1927, page 31

MOTOR BUS DESTROYED.

On November 16 the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade received a call to South road, Edwardstown, where near Pengelly's factory, they found a motor bus, the property of Mr. Weaver, of Cross roads, Fullarton, on fire. The blaze was stated to have been caused by a backfire. The vehicle was totally destroyed. It was insured with the Alliance Insurance Company.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 6 December 1927, page 23

FIRE IN POTTERY WORKS.

PROMPT ACTION BY FIRE BRIGADE.

A serious fire was averted at Mr. R. C. Worthley's pottery works, Port-road, Brompton, by the prompt action of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, shortly before midnight last night. The fire, which broke out in a stack of wood in a building near the furnace, was first noticed by Mr. A. Worthley, a son of the owner, who gave the alarm. The brigade was quickly on the scene, and had the fire under control before serious damage was done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 14 December 1927, page 5

FIRE AT BROMPTON

Good Save Effected

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade answered a call at 9.45 o'clock this morning to a fire in the brickyard of Mr. T. P. Brown at Third street, Brompton. Wood stacks and sheds were damaged to the extent of £20. The brigade under Deputy Superintendent S. E. Hocking, was quickly on the scene and effected a good save.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 15 December 1927, page 14

CASUALTIES.

SMALL FIRE AT BROMPTON.

A small fire occurred at Third street, Brompton, between 9 and 10 a.m. on Wednesday. The fire was first noticed by Mrs. Oatley, a resident, who telephoned the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. The brigade quickly responded and confined the outbreak to a stack of wood in a shed, which belonged to the estate of the late Mr. Thomas T. Brown, brick manufacturer. The estimated damage is £20. Portion of the property is insured with the Federal Mutual Insurance Company, but whether the wood is covered is doubtful.

1928

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 24 January 1928, page 11

CASUALTIES.

FIRE IN PUGHOLE

A fire was noticed at the rear of Mr. Hayes's butcher's shop, between Port road and Osmond street, Hindmarsh, on Monday. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Ambulance and Fire Brigade was summoned and prevented the fire from spreading to adjoining sheds and fences. No damage was done.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 11 February 1928, page 4

Shed on Fire

A fire broke out shortly after 3 o'clock this afternoon in a small shed at the rear of the residence of Mr. E. Harding, of Richards street, Hindmarsh. Slight damage was done. The blaze appeared to have started in some loose sawdust stored in the shed. It then spread to a fence near some stacked timber on an adjoining property owned by J. King & Sons. Under Deputy Superintendent S. Hocking the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was quickly on the scene and made a good save. Much valuable timber was stacked in close proximity to the outbreak, and a serious blaze appeared likely before the brigade arrived.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 21 February 1928, page 13

FIRE IN A RAILWAY YARD.

About 1.30 p.m. yesterday a fire broke out in a stack of timber in the Bowden railway yard. The Hindmarsh fire brigade which was called extinguished the outbreak before much damage was done.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 25 February 1928, page 5

Fire at Croydon

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade received a call at 12.50 this afternoon to the premises of Mr. Harvey at 17 Henry street, Croydon, a quantity of tar in drums was ablaze near the house. Little damage was done. The prompt response of the brigade prevented the flames from spreading.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 23 March 1928, page 13

GENERAL NEWS.

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

The annual report and balance sheet of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade disclosed a successful year. The report stated that 69 calls to fires were received (11 were false), and the average attendance of members was 15. Thanks were expressed to the employers in the town who allowed the firemen to respond to alarms (of which 22 were received) during working hours. The average attendance at the 52 weekly parades was 23, out of a membership of 30. During the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to Hindmarsh, the brigade formed a guard of honour. Long service awards were made to Instructor T. H. Lonnen and Fireman A. McLennan, 10-year medals; Fireman R. Mounster and N. Wood, five-year certificates. The financial statement showed that the receipts from the Underwriters' Association were £100, firemen at public entertainments, £120; Hindmarsh Corporation, £65; donations, £49; and sundry amounts, £40. The expenses were, new chassis and registration, £185; firemen at public entertainments, £72; firemen's insurance, £30; station and night duty, £36; uniforms, boots, &c., £43; general repairs and renewals, £28; and sundry amounts, £37. The plant account included Dennis pump, £1,202; look-out, brushes, winder, and hosing, £693; smoke helmet, helmets, and two respirators, £72; two motor reels, £550; uniforms, and accoutrements, £205; one chassis, £50; and two chemical extinguishers, £5. The officials were:— chief officer, Mr. G. J. Plenty; deputy chief officer, Mr. S. E. Hocking; lieutenant, Mr. E. Smith; station officer, Mr. P. G. Hocking; foreman, Mr. A. J. Battersby; ambulance officer, Mr. H. McCarthy; instructor, Mr. T. H. Lonnen; consulting engineer, Mr. H. Ray; engineer, Mr. L. Duncan; honorary surgeon, Dr. G. H. B. Black; honorary dentist, Mr. H. P. Williams; honorary solicitor, Mr. W. R. Ray; honorary auditors, Messrs. J. James and L. J. Martin; honorary secretary, Mr. G. Plenty, jun.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 7 April 1928, page 11

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

On Good Friday members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and ambulance staff hold their annual gathering and dinner, to which the Mayor of Hindmarsh, members of the council, members for the district, and persons who have actively assisted in the welfare of the brigade are usually invited. This year the amusement and luncheon were confined to the

officers and members, it having been decided to hold an invitation dinner at an early date. There was a representative gathering on Friday, and an enjoyable day was spent. The morning was occupied with a game of bowls on the Hindmarsh Bowling Club's green, adjoining the fire station. The afternoon was devoted to various forms of amusement, and at night the time was spent in singing and elocutionary items.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 28 May 1928, page 10

PAINT DESTROYED

Early Morning Blaze

Fire in a shed on the premises of Mr. Frederick Hill, painter and signwriter, of 27a Adam street, Hindmarsh, destroyed a quantity of paint and enamel. The damage was estimated at £80. Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call shortly after 4 o'clock this morning. Their quick response and effective work prevented the flames from spreading to the adjoining property. It is reported that the insurance will not cover the amount of damage done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 16 July 1928, page 1

ELDERLY WOMAN INJURED

Knocked Down by Bicycle

Shortly before 6 o'clock this morning Mrs. Ellen Ryan, 67 years of age, of Phillip street, Croydon, was knocked down at the intersection of Port road and Coglin street, Brompton, by a push bicycle ridden by William Avery, of Bertie street, West Hindmarsh. She was taken to Adelaide Hospital by Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade Ambulance. She is suffering from a fractured skull.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 2 August 1928, page 13

PERSONAL.

Chief Officer G. J. Plenty, of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, was on Wednesday evening, at the fire station, presented with a 30 years' service bar to his long-service medal. Deputy Chief Officer Hocking made the presentation. Mr. Plenty joined the brigade in August 1898, and was appointed chief officer in 1912. The brigade has made wonderful progress in recent years, for from a horse reel in 1912, the plant has been increased by the purchase of a Dennis pump, two motor reels, and four ambulances. A new station has been erected, with quarters for those on night duty.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 3 August 1928, page 7

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

BAR FOR LONG SERVICE

Record of Mr. G. J. Plenty

Superintendent George J. Plenty, of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, was presented at the monthly meeting of the brigade with a 30-year bar for his long service medal. Deputy-Chief Officer S. C. Hocking made the presentation. Mr. Plenty joined the brigade in August, 1898, and four years later he was appointed officers' treasurer. His long experience as a fire

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

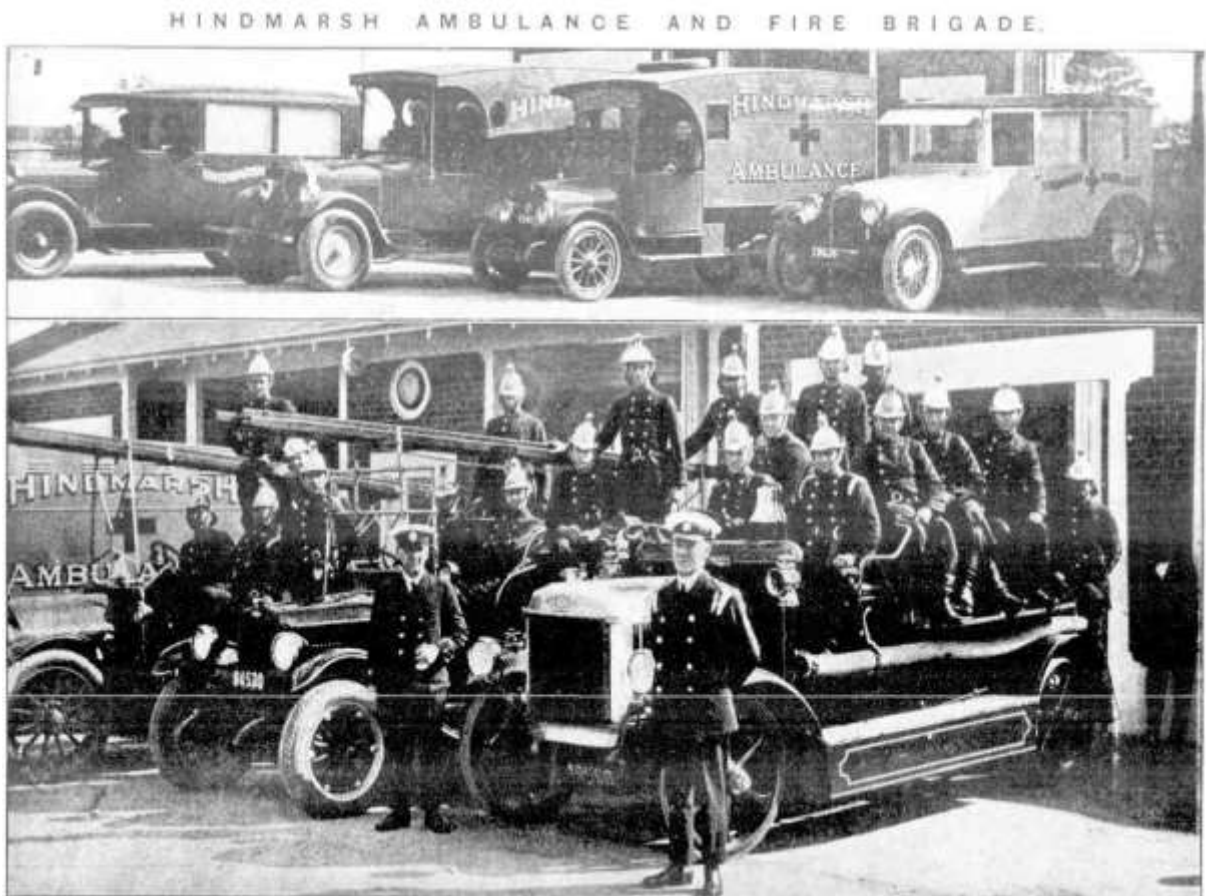
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11 December 2024

fighter has made him an authority. He was born in the Hindmarsh district, and for many years he was actively associated with local cricket and football clubs. In recent years he has devoted much of his leisure time to bowls. For 16 years he was on the committee of the West Torrens Football Club, and in recognition of his services he was made a life member. When Mr. Plenty took charge the only appliance at the brigade was a horse reel. In 1920 he visited Queensland and studied the working of volunteer ambulances. On returning he was instrumental in organising the volunteer ambulance which has given excellent service at Hindmarsh. To gain experience Mr. Plenty has attended nearly all the fires in the city for more than 20 years. He keeps himself well versed in all fire fighting methods by reading modern literature on the subject. It was decided at the meeting again to give the services of a fully equipped ambulance for the Charity Carnival.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 18 August 1928, page 39

HINDMARSH AMBULANCE AND FIRE BRIGADE,



EFFICIENT VOLUNTEERS. Krischock, photo.

It has long been the pride of the Town of Hindmarsh that the Fire Brigade and Ambulance services are supplied by volunteer citizens.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 5 September 1928, page 19

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

FIRE AT CROYDON.

Shortly after 7 p.m. on Tuesday the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was summoned to an outbreak of fire at the garage of Mr. C. K. Newell at Government-road, Croydon. Damage estimated at £5 was done to the shed. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Sport (Adelaide, SA : 1911 - 1948), Thursday 27 September 1928, page 29

TAILOR AND FIREMAN

There are few residents in the Hindmarsh district who have a greater interest and take more pride in their district than does Mr. George James Plenty, superintendent of the highly-efficient Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and Ambulance. He was born in the district and received his education at the Pulteney Street Grammar School. After leaving school he was apprenticed to the tailoring trade, which occupation he still follows as chief of the firm of G. J. Plenty, Son & Co., Bowden.

For four years Mr. Plenty was a member of the Hindmarsh Council. He is connected with the Hindmarsh Bowling Club and is an enthusiast in all sport. He played cricket and football for local teams for a long period. For 16 years he was on the committee of the West Torrens Football Club, and held the office of chairman several times. He is a life-member of the club. His connection with the fire brigade dates back to August, 1898, when he enlisted as a volunteer. After serving 13 years and having held the appointment of treasurer, Mr. Plenty was made superintendent. When he took charge the only appliance available was a horse reel. During his term of management many improvements have been effected, and now two motor reels, Dennis pump, and two motor ambulances are housed in an up-to-date station. In 1920 he visited Queensland and studied the working of volunteer ambulances. On returning he was instrumental in organising a volunteer ambulance in his district. Mr. Plenty enjoys working in his garden, which is a credit to him.



MR. GEO. PLENTY.

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

FIRE AT A BARK MILL.

On Wednesday smoke was seen issuing from the top storey of the bark mill of Messrs. J. M. Reid & Sons' tannery, Hindmarsh, by Mr. Arthur James, foreman of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. There was a large stack of bark in the vicinity, but the firemen's efforts to

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11 December 2024

confine the fire to the mill shed were successful. A wood and iron structure 15 ft. square, a dust-collecting machine, and a quantity of material were destroyed.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 8 November 1928, page 6

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade

"J. R.," .Bowden:—As a spectator of the fire on Wednesday at the bark mill of Messrs. John Reid & Sons, Hindmarsh, I was impressed by the promptness with which Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade responded to the call and subdued the outbreak. From the time of the sounding of the hooter giving the alarm until the brigade had water playing on the flames only two minutes had elapsed. Although the distance from the fire station to the scene of the outbreak is only about a quarter of a mile I regard the performance as most creditable for a band of volunteer firemen. The smartness of the brigade undoubtedly prevented a conflagration. The residents of Hindmarsh should be proud of such a body of men.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 9 November 1928, page 8

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade

John Reid & Sons, Limited, Adelaide:— It is our pleasing duty to place on record the excellent work performed by members of Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade at the fire which occurred on Wednesday at our bark mills. The immediate response to the call and the efforts of the firemen prevented the destruction of valuable plant and stocks. We also confirm the comments made in the letter of "J. R." Thanks and practical appreciation have been officially conveyed to members of the brigade. With their up-to-date, well-organised system and plant, safety and security are assured to the important manufacturing town of Hindmarsh. The brigade deserves the support and recognition of all residents.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 27 November 1928, page 12

PROTECTION FROM FIRE

Hindmarsh Brigade Effective

Hindmarsh is fortunate in having an excellent volunteer fire brigade, in which residents have the utmost confidence. Four thousand feet of hose was used at fires in the municipality from November 1, 1927, to October 31, according to the report submitted by the brigade to the local town council. Value of property destroyed by fire was estimated at £211 10/, and value of property endangered by fire was approximately £9,840. Of 26 calls 16 were false alarms. Three fires occurred at wood and iron sheds, two at woodstacks, two grass fires, one fire in a house, and another in a pughole. The other call was to some burning tar. There were, in addition, 17 verbal calls to fires. Seven were in pugholes, two at wood stacks, two were grass fires, and one in a wood and iron shed. The other five calls were to a fence, an electric light pole, truck of wood, motor car, and a chimney. During the year there were six special and two church parades. The average attendance at the special parades was 28, and at the church parades, 21.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 13 December 1928, page 22

SHED DESTROYED

Caused by Grass Fire

Burning grass destroyed a shed valued about £100, and some shop fittings worth about £30, in Elizabeth street, Croydon, this afternoon. Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call about 1.50 o'clock, and its prompt arrival prevented the fire from spreading. The property, which was owned by Mrs. W. J. Gurney, is believed to be insured.

1929

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 3 January 1929, page 12

FIRE IN A STABLE.

A small fire occurred in the stable of Mr. E. J. Lewis, Jervois-avenue, New Hindmarsh, on Wednesday afternoon. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade soon had the flames under control. Mr. Lewis is interested in trotting horses, and had a valuable horse in the stable. It was released without injury. Only slight damage was caused.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 10 January 1929, page 21

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

A visit was made to the Hindmarsh Fire Station and ambulance quarters on Wednesday night by members of the Henley and Grange Council. The visitors were received by Chief Officer G. J. Plenty, and made an inspection of the equipment and station. The usual parade was gone through by the firemen, and a turnout from a call was promptly responded to.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 12 January 1929, page 25

FIRE AT MILE-END.

BIG BLAZE AVERTED.

A COOPERAGE IN DANGER.

The prompt action of neighboring householders in summoning the fire brigade and the latter's speedy arrival on the scene averted what threatened to be a spectacular and disastrous blaze at a cooperage at Mile-End on Friday evening. The premises are owned by Messrs. R. Babidge & Sons, coopers, vat builders, and importers, and are situated on Railway-terrace, Mile-End. On the northern side of the cooperage is a lane on which abuts the back fences of the houses on the south side of Gladstone-road. Mrs. M. Hedley, who resides in one of the houses, had occasion to go into the back yard shortly after 7 o'clock and she noticed smoke and flames issuing from the cooperage. She immediately ran into the lane and instructed a man who was passing along Railway-terrace to call the fire brigade. Mrs. Hedley also informed a neighbor, who sent her son to telephone to the fire station. Within three minutes two appliances from the Adelaide and Hindmarsh stations were on the spot, the call having been received at 7.5 p.m. The fire was found to be situated in the engine-room, and the firemen, getting to work with a line of hose, the flames were soon extinguished. Had the outbreak not been arrested at such an early stage a big blaze would have resulted, for a few feet away from the engine-house are huge stacks of staves used in the manufacture of casks. Large heaps of sawdust are also close by. The building is of wood and iron and contains resin and other material which would have provided excellent fuel for the flames. Mr. Lloyd Babidge, a member of the firm, stated that so far as could be ascertained the damage would not be great, although the injury to the engines could not be

definitely estimated until a proper examination had been made. It had been the practice for a caretaker to remain at the cooperage, but lately that arrangement had not been observed. The premises are insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 24 January 1929, page 20

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

The annual visit of the Harley-Davidson Motor Cycle Club to the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and ambulance station, was paid on Wednesday evening. The mayoress of Hindmarsh (Mrs. J. E. Bateup) provided refreshments. The mayor (Mr. J. E. Bateup) was present. Musical items were rendered.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 28 January 1929, page 8

HENLEY-GRANGE GALA

Procession and Sports

FUN AT SEASIDE

Henley and Grange carnival was continued today in fine weather. It will be concluded tonight. Proceedings opened with a procession, in which many local residents and tradespeople took part. It moved off from Grange Jetty shortly after 10.30 o'clock. Decorated motor cars, an obsolete vehicle described as "Henry's latest," pierrots, Red Indians, fairies, policemen with formidable batons and highly colored complexions, and "back to school" characters on horseback enlivened proceedings. The members of the Henley Lifesaving Club presented a smart appearance in their neat costumes. As the proceeds are to be devoted to a fund for the establishment of a fire brigade it was appropriate that the procession should be led by a fire reel. This was supplied by Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, which also sent along one of its motor ambulances. Sailing and swimming events were held, and sports took place on the foreshore. Mr. L. Eitzen was chairman of the procession committee, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Barrey (Mayor and Mayoress) and Miss Aird were the judges of the various sections in the procession. Officials for swimming events were:—Messrs. F. C. Cavanagh. M. Depledge, D. T. Dunn (judges). H. Eaton (handicapper), A. Bickers (assistant handicapper). R. A. Dalton, C. Waite, J. Cooney (timekeepers), H. Bridgland (starter), W. Malone (check starter), D. G. Fisher, A. Renfrey (post entry, stewards), D. T. Dunn, A. Renfrey, sen., A. Renfrey, jun., F. S. Lines, A. Adam, H. O'Malley, J. Jacka, G. Underwood, W. Howe, Piening (committee), D. G. Fisher (secretary) and S. Barber (association representative). Officials for sailing events:—Messrs. H. Gaetjens (patron). Ald. H. G. Annells (president), R. Wilson (judge), H. Bishop (timekeeper), E. G. Allen (starter), G. W. Simmons (handicapper), L. Thomson (commodore), and R. T. Laing (vice-commodore).

Results:— Best-decorated motor car, Mr. Norris (sunflower), Misses Wyly and Rix (rainbow). Best tradesman's turn-out, W. Badenoch (baker), P. Johns (butcher). Most original display, R. J. Johns (clear ice), S. G. Johns ("The News"). Best advertising display, N. Zimmerman (groceries). Best-dressed member of school band, Arnold Christie. Best fancy costume (girls under seven years), Valda Hemer (sailor's wedding), Alf Dixon (Red Indian), Valma Henderson (most humorous, golliwog). Girls (more than seven years) best fancy costume, Laurel Marriott (cavalier), Marjorie Northey (Dutchman), Betty Mills (most humorous, Topsy). Boys' section, Leshie Marriott (fireman), Ralph Belcher, Jack Dixon (most humorous, clown), M. Shirley (absent-minded professor). Most humorous costume (adults), Colin

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

www.fire-brigade.asn.au

11 December 2024

Tietzel (witch). Henley Lifesaving Club was awarded first prize for the best "party costume." In the sailing race from Glenelg to Henley jetty Valkyrie (W. Horrocks) was first, Disturber (T. Wilson) second, and Wings (S. Good) third. The respective finishing times were 10.45.18, 10.51.36, 10.51.40. An event for 14-ft. boats only was sailed at Henley over a course of approximately six miles. Starters were Mirage, Albatross, Wallaby, Valiant, John Nimmo, Torment, Miss Johnnie, Silver Spray, Avalon, White Cloud and John Savage. Result:— Torment (K. D. Allen), John Savage (H. Le Len), Albatross (T. Thomson).

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Friday 1 February 1929, page 18

FIRE AT MICHELL'S

Quick response by the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade yesterday afternoon to a fire in a woolshed at Messrs. G. Mitchell and Son's wool scouring establishment at Hindmarsh, prevented the outbreak from spreading. It was confined to a rafter in the second story of a wood-and-iron structure.

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Friday 1 March 1929, page 12

FIRE AT BROMPTON GASWORKS

Large Iron Store Shed Burnt, Damage £1,100

FIRE broke out in a storeroom at the South Australian Gas Company's works, Brompton, yesterday morning, and a wood-and-iron shed, used as a storeroom was destroyed. Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade prevented the flames spreading to the adjoining parts of the works. The damage is estimated at £1,100, and is covered by insurance.

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Friday 1 March 1929, page 38

AMATEUR FIREFIGHTERS DO THEIR DUTY



The prompt work of members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and willing helpers in quelling an outbreak in a store shed at the South Australian Gas Company's works at Brompton yesterday morning, prevented a serious fire.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 1 March 1929, page 27

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

FIRE AT GAS COMPANY'S WORKS.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to a fire at the South Australian Gas Company's works, Brompton, about 10 o'clock on Thursday morning. Employes were trucking waste into a shed, when Mr. Alfred L. Hogg noticed smoke issuing from the company's Drayton-street storeroom. On investigation he found a bale of hemp, which was stacked on the side of the shed, on fire. The structure measured 40 ft. by 40 ft., and was built of wood and iron. It contained paint, irons, and fittings. The brigade was summoned, and the employes also ran out two lines of hose. The pressure of water was not strong, but the brigade confined the outbreak to the shed, which was gutted. The outbreak was close to a gas main. The building and contents were insured. The extent of the damage is approximately £1,100.

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Friday 1 March 1929, page 20

GASWORKS FIRE



FIRE THREATENS BROMPTON GAS WORKS: Two pictures taken during a fire in a store at the South Australian Gas Company's plant at Brompton yesterday morning. Dangerous extension to highly inflammable materials was averted by the prompt action of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade.

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Thursday 7 March 1929, page 28

A medal and 10 years' service bar was presented to Fireman C. H. Hocking, of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade last night.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 21 March 1929, page 19

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

The annual report of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was given to members on Wednesday evening. The secretary (Mr. G. Plenty, Jun.) in his report states that 50 fire calls were received, of which 20 were false. The average attendance at call-outs were 15. Thanks were extended to the employers for allowing their employes who were memnbers of the brigade to leave work in response to alarms of fire. Long service awards were:— Chief Officer G. J. Plenty, 30 years' service bar; and Fireman R. Wood, 5-year certificate. Fifty-two

weekly, seven special, and three weekly parades were held, with an average attendance of 25. The strength of the brigade is 32 members and 18 auxiliaries. The receipts were: —Fire Underwriters' Association, £100; Hindmarsh Corporation grant, £65; corporation allowances, water, rent, and lighting, £52; Government grant for electrical appliances, £52; firemen at public entertainments. £95; private donations. £52; services rendered for John Reid & Sons, £10 10/. Expenses, uniforms, boots, repairs, £114; firemen at public entertainments, £63; firemen's insurance, £25; station and night duty, £17; general repairs and renewals. £73; electrical appliances, £52; rent, lighting, water rates. £52; equipment, £34; sundries. £6. The reports were adopted.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 30 March 1929, page 16

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN.

ANNUAL DINNER AND SPORTS.

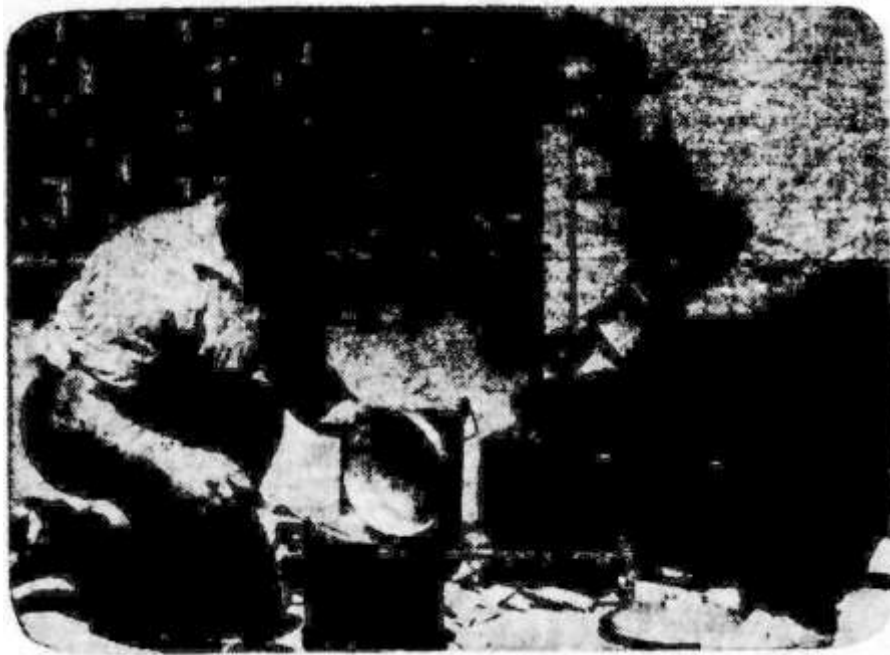
The annual dinner and sports gathering, arranged by the members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade Recreation Club, were held on Good Friday. The club members prepared the dinner tables and waited on them. Among the visitors were ex-Superintendent Duncan, who was one of the founders of the brigade about 45 years ago, and Mr. K. Horsfall, representing the Victor Harbour Brigade. A four-rink game of bowls was played on the Hindmarsh Club green in the morning. Dinner was served in the fire-station. Chief-Officer G. J. Plenty presiding. After the loyal toast had been honored, Instructor T. H. Lonnen proposed "Parliament and Press," and alluded to the interest Messrs. Blackwell and McInnes had taken in the brigade. In replying, Mr. A. J. Blackwell, M.P., commented upon the brigade's fine building, and said they need have no fear of the brigade going out of existence while the members displayed their present efficiency. Mr. J. McInnes, MP, said he could be relied upon to work in the interests of the brigade. Mr. H. W. Tomkins also replied. "The Hindmarsh Council" was submitted by Station-officer P. G. Hocking, and the Mayor (Mr. J. E. Bateup) assured the brigade of the council's support. Councillor J. F. Loney also spoke. Lieutenant E. Smith gave "Kindred Brigades," to which Mr. G. Acres (assistant secretary at Woodville) replied. The "Visitors" was submitted by Chief-officer G. J. Plenty. In reply, Ambulance-officer R. Burns (Speedway) stated that the ambulance and staff had given every satisfaction at the Speedway meetings at Wayville and Smithfield, and that the competitors were pleased with their work. Messrs. P. Groves (Hindmarsh Municipal Band) and S. Hine (Returned Soldiers) also replied. The "Firemen's Recreation Club" was proposed by Mr. Chapman, and acknowledged by Instructor T. H. Lonnen (chairman). The afternoon was spent in amusements, and musical items were given by Messrs. C. Wood (pianist), F. Boyce, W. Runge, and W. Day. Tea was served in the station, and the evening spent in a social manner.

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Saturday 30 March 1929, page 14



FIRE-FIGHTERS DINE: Some of the members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade waiting for their annual dinner at the fire station yesterday.

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Saturday 30 March 1929, page 28



FIREMEN AS CHEFS: Two members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade preparing for their annual dinner at the Fire Station yesterday.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 4 April 1929, page 18

FIRE AT KILKENNY

Outbreak in Carpentry Shop

TIMBER DESTROYED

Fire broke out in a carpenter's shop, the property of Mr. T. Mattinson, in Torrens road, Kilkenny, about 8 o'clock last night. The shop and its contents were almost totally destroyed, but an adjoining shed, which served as a storeroom, was saved. The outbreak was first noticed by Miss M. Mattinson, sister of Mr. Mattinson. She notified the Woodville Volunteer

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

www.fire-brigade.asn.au

11 December 2024

Fire Brigade, which was on the scene three or four minutes after the call. The fire had obtained a firm hold, and burnt fiercely. Difficulty was experienced in quelling the outbreak. The shed contained a quantity of timber and a large number of carpenter's tools. After fighting the flames for about three-quarters of an hour the firemen extinguished the fire. In the shed which was saved were a sulky and a large quantity of timber and iron. Mr. Mattinson, who was at Glenelg when he was informed of the fire, left for home immediately. The shop and adjoining shed are at the rear of his home in Torrens road. The property was fully insured with the Standard Insurance Company, Limited, Grenfell street. Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was in attendance, but its services were not required.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 9 April 1930, page 1

FIRE IN CHAFFMILL

Seven tons of hay were alight at the chaffmills of Oates & Koch, of Torrens road, nearly opposite Brompton School. when Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call at 12.30 today. Little damage was done. The property was insured.

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Wednesday 17 April 1929, page 8

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE DEFENDED

Union Attack

HINDMARSH ALDERMAN PROTESTS

To the Editor

SIR— I Notice that volunteer fire brigades are being attacked through the medium of the Government Workers' Association, which has taken the permanent fire brigade men under its wing. It is nearly time the Trades and Labour Council and unions concerned took action to protect their own interests in this matter, as it seems to me to be purely a campaign to gain members for the G.W.A. at the expense of other unions. I have sons who are members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and I have received by post cuttings from the G.W.A. union paper telling me that volunteer firemen are worse than volunteer wharf labourers. I feel that I have a personal grievance to air, especially as my sons are good financial unionists.

EXCLUDING UNIONISTS

Some of the statements made are ridiculous, and especially that which says that volunteer men are keeping unionists out of a job. The truth is that it would cost more than £2,000 a year to run a permanent brigade at Hindmarsh employing, say, four men, whereas the same amount of money, expended on corporation or Government labour, would employ twice the number of men, and they would all be just as good unionists as members of the G.W.A. We feel sure, also, that we would not be so well protected as at present, as, in the event of a big city fire, suburban brigades are called, and the suburbs are temporarily unprotected. I note that Messrs. Blackwell and McInnes, M.P.'s for the district, have been attacked for promising their support to our volunteer brigade; but they will have no misgivings over the matter, as Hindmarsh residents have no desire to be loaded with a fire brigade rate merely to employ four G.W.A. unionists at the expense of twice as many members of other unions.

SECRETARY'S VOLUNTARY WORK

I would remind the G.W.A. that their secretary worked for years as a member of Hindmarsh Council without fee or reward, and I have heard him take the pulpit as a local preacher, also without payment. I submit that our volunteer firemen have just as much right to give their services for the good of Hindmarsh. I have the consent of the Superintendent of our fire brigade and ambulance (Mr. G. J. Plenty) to invite any rate-payers or visitors to Hindmarsh to inspect our splendid fire station. They will be amazed at the efficiency of both plant and men. Hindmarsh is justly proud of its fire brigade and ambulance, and will not tolerate any interference. — Yours, WILLIAM WOOD, Government road, Croydon, Alderman of Hindmarsh Council.

Volunteer Fire Brigades

Unions in this State have been circularized by the Australian Government Workers' Association on the subject of volunteer fire brigades. They have been asked to instruct their delegates to the Trades and Labour Council before the next meeting, at which it is intended to have the matter debated, to vote against the formation or support of volunteer brigades. Some unions which have discussed the matter have given their delegates a free hand.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 17 April 1929, page 4

Volunteer Fire Brigades

Mr. F. K. Nieass (secretary of the Australian Government Workers' Association) issued a statement today on the position which has arisen through his union taking a hostile view of the employment of volunteer firemen and the formation of volunteer fire brigades. The association has circularised unions asking them to instruct delegates to the United Trades and Labor Council to vote against the formation of such bodies. It has been stated that some unions have decided to give their delegates a free hand in the matter. Mr. Nieass said that up to date only one union had given its delegates a free hand and he understood at least two would support his organisation. A third industrial organisation was almost certain to support his association.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 29 April 1930, page 1

FIRE AT QUEENSBURY

HEAVY DAMAGE TO STOCK

BUILDING UNINJURED

Damage which will probably run into thousands of pounds and the total extent of which will not be known for some days, was caused by fire and water at the premises of Mr. W. K. Thomson, motor body padding manufacturer, David street, Queensbury, between Albert Park and Royal Park early this afternoon. Woodville District, Hindmarsh Volunteer, and Port Adelaide Fire Brigades attended. The fire started about 12.30 o'clock, and was fought by the employes with appliances on the premises, water being secured from a 3-in. main. The building and plant were uninjured, the damage being restricted to raw cotton and manufactured goods. The origin of the outbreak is unknown. There will be no loss of employment as a result of the fire. The fire was restricted to the rear portion of the building, where the cotton goods were stored. There is much valuable plant on the premises.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 21 May 1929, page 14



THEBARTON FIRE BRIGADE RESPONDS TO EXTINGUISH BLAZE AT PAINT WORKS THIS MORNING Within two minutes of receiving the call the brigade arrived at the plant of the Premier Varnish and Paint Company at Torrensville, where an outbreak of fire had occurred. Varnish and paint drums exploded as the heat and the flames reached them.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 25 May 1929, page 29

How Volunteer Firemen Save the Ratepayers' Money

"If the agitation organised by the trades unions to abolish volunteer fire brigades takes effect the ratepayers of Hindmarsh will find themselves paying a much higher rate than they do now," asserts Mr. G. Plenty, jun., secretary of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Mr. Plenty points out that although it is a voluntary organisation two paid men are always kept. If a permanent brigade were established there would be only four full-time men employed, and the cost of buying engines and appliances would be enormous. It has been stated, he says, that the Hindmarsh Brigade is run for the benefit of the master class, but figures show that during the past 10 years 87 dwelling houses and small shops have been saved, compared with 36 buildings which could be said to belong to the master class. If a worker loses his cottage he loses all he has, but a large firm usually possesses other assets. There have been similar troubles in the eastern States, but differences have been settled. At present 3,000 volunteers in Victoria work with permanent men, and one town in New South Wales, larger than Port Adelaide, is guarded by one permanent man, with the assistance of volunteers. The Hindmarsh Brigade has reached its forty-fifth year of activity, and should the unions enforce their threat to compel all trade unionist members to resign from its ranks it will still be able to carry on. Mr. Plenty suggests that the matter should be decided by a plebiscite of the people of Hindmarsh. "They are the most directly affected," he declares, "and they should decide." The fire station is a model of cleanliness and efficiency. Every piece of metal shines, and the hoses are kept in neat coils, so that there is no chance of delay at a critical moment. There are two motor reels and a Dennis pump of the latest design. Every thing is ready for immediate action, and the men have only to don the jackets and helmets which hang on pegs behind the engine. Intimation of a fire, through one of the seven alarms in the district, is first given to the secretary, who is in direct communication with the station. He puts the call through, and connection is automatically established with the gasworks blower, which calls up the men by a prearranged signal. Five or six men work in

the vicinity of the station, and the others are always available, arrangements having been made with their employers to release them at once. There is no deduction from their wages for time lost in this way, but if a man is financially penalized he is compensated out of brigade funds. There are 32 qualified members and 18 others in training. Admission to the brigade is by no means easy. Intending members have to undergo a thorough physical examination, and searching enquiries are made into their character. They have a cosy little recreation room, which they paid for and fitted themselves, where there is a full-sized billiard table, a wireless set, piano, and library. When they come in from a fire they can have a bath. Hot and cold showers are available. The officers, who have many years of service to their credit, include: — Chief Officer G. J. Plenty, Deputy Chief Officer S. E. Hocking, Lieut. E. Smith, Station Officer P. G. Hocking, Foreman A. J. Battersby, and Drill Instructor T. H. Lonnen (a former captain in the Australian Imperial Force).



HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE, over which a controversy is taking place. In the past 10 years it has saved 87 dwelling houses and small shops, and 36 larger buildings. There is agitation by trades unions to abolish volunteer fire brigades. Mr. G. Plenty, jun., secretary of the Hindmarsh brigade, suggests that the matter should be decided by a plebiscite of the people of Hindmarsh.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 25 May 1929, page 5

FIRE AT CROYDON

Small Building Destroyed

Fire at Elizabeth street, Croydon, last night destroyed a small wood-and-iron building and its contents. The building, which was detached, was owned by Mr. M. S. Carman, of Croydon, and used by Mr. C. Noden, a boot repairer. Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call about 6.45 o'clock. When it arrived the building was well alight. The firemen prevented the flames from spreading to an adjoining row of shops. The contents were insured with Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation, Limited, for £200, and the building with United Insurance Company, Limited.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 27 July 1929, page 5

"WHITE SHADOWS"

Picture Film Destroyed

"White Shadows of the South Seas," a film booked to be shown at Ozone Theatre, Alberton, tonight, was destroyed by fire while being taken to the theatre at 9 o'clock tonight. Earlier in the evening it was screened at Star Theatre, Norwood, and at the conclusion of its showing there Mr. J. A. Plunkett, of Stuart road, Dulwich, took it in his car to Alberton. On the Port road, Welland, the film, which is valued at £100, caught fire and was practically destroyed. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was summoned, and extinguished the fire before the motor car had been extensively damaged. Mr. Plunkett sustained a scorched arm in attempting to save the film. Ozone Theatre was advised of the fire, and another film was substituted.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 31 July 1929, page 9

STORE DESTROYED BY FIRE

EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO STOCK

Stock worth more than £1,000 was destroyed as the result of a fire at the general store conducted by Mr. E. H. Porter, at Coglin-street, Brompton, at 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The owner was at the rear of his home, which adjoins the shop, at the time of the outbreak. Hearing flames crackling, he hurried inside and found a pile of softgoods and paper bags stacked in the front portion of the store well alight. He called to passers-by to summon the brigade, and attempted to arrest the progress of the flames by means of a garden hose, which proved inadequate. A smart response was made by the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and the flames were controlled before damage was done to the house. The stock was insured for about £600 and the shop and dwelling were covered to the extend of £700. Constable T. O'Sullivan, of Hindmarsh, is preparing a report for the coroner.

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Wednesday 31 July 1929, page 28



STORE GUTTED AT BROMPTON: A general store, owned by Mr. E. H. Porter, of Brompton, was destroyed by fire yesterday morning, and only the prompt action of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade saved the adjoining house. Above: Mr. Porter packing some of his salvaged goods.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 8 October 1929, page 6

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit
www.fire-brigade.asn.au
11 December 2024

EXTENSION OF ACTIVITIES

The area covered by the Hindmarsh Volunteer Ambulance is continually extending. Latterly there has been a falling off in the subscriptions received from the district, making it difficult for the executive to meet liabilities. Some time ago it was decided to extend the scheme to all the suburbs, establishing stations at several points. With this end in view, the ambulance was recently incorporated under the name of the "Hindmarsh Volunteer Ambulance." The present executive will continue to function, and any vacancies will be filled by persons appointed by the executive, thus forming a permanent trust. The Fire Brigade, which is also voluntary, and controlled by practically the same executive, and the ambulance, are housed in the same building, but the plant of the Fire Brigade is vested in the local corporation. Should the Fire Brigade at any time be disbanded, the step taken by the executive will enable the work of the ambulance to be carried on independently.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 21 October 1929, page 1

HOUSE ON FIRE

Woman Rescues Boy

BLAZE AT QUEENSTOWN

Fire broke out in the back portion of a house in Dixon street, New Queenstown, this morning destroying and damaging the contents. Damage is estimated at £400 The house was owned by Mr. James Roach. His young son Colin and daughter Miss E. Roach were on the premises at the time. Seeing smoke coming from the back of the house when she went into her yard shortly before 10 o'clock, Mrs. A. L. Coates, who occupies an adjacent dwelling, at first thought that rubbish was being burned. As the smoke increased and flames began to issue from the building, she went to the back door. Entering the home, which was then full of smoke, she rescued Colin Roach, who was in the porch. Mrs. Coates then stopped a passing motorist, who notified Port Adelaide Fire Brigade by telephone. One appliance in charge of Stationmaster S. L. Bland went to the outbreak, and had the blaze under control before Hindmarsh Fire Brigade arrived to give assistance. The house is of brick with a freestone front. There are wood and iron additions at the back. These were completely gutted, and all contents of the rooms destroyed. When Mrs. Coates entered a fire was burning in a wood stove in the kitchen. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. Mr. Roach was at Port Adelaide at the time. He was not working. Everything in the three back rooms was burned to the floor. After the brigades left only charred wooden supports remained standing. The floor was littered with ruins. The flames spread down the passage and entered the two front rooms. Contents of those rooms were badly damaged by smoke and water. The house was not insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 22 October 1929, page 15

BABY BOY RESCUED FROM BURNING

BUILDING AT QUEENSTOWN

PLUCKY ACTION OF WOMAN ATTEMPTS TO RETURN, BUT BEATEN BACK BY FUMES

Seeing smoke issuing from the door and windows at the rear of the house next door, Mrs. A. T. Coates, of Dixon-street, Queenstown, rushed into the building and found Colin Roach, the

three-years-old son of the owner in the kitchen porch. She rushed him out into the yard and attempted to return into the house, but was beaten back by a sheet of flame.

The house is owned by Mr. James Roach, who resided there with his baby son and 21-year-old daughter. Miss E. Roach. The Port Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned. One appliance, in charge of Fire-Officer S. L. Bland, went to the outbreak, and soon had the blaze under control. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade arrived later.

House Badly Damaged

The damage is estimated at £400. The house is of brick, with a freestone front. There are wood and iron additions at the back. These were gutted and all the contents destroyed. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. Mr. Roach was at Port Adelaide at the time. He has been out of work for some time. An examination of the house revealed extensive damage. Everything in the three back rooms was burnt to the floor, only the charred wooden supports remaining standing. The flames spread down the passage and entered the two front rooms, the contents of which were badly damaged by smoke and water. The house was not insured.

Story of Rescue

The story of the fire and the rescue was told to a representative of "The Advertiser" by Mrs. Coates, who said she went into the yard about 10 o'clock, and noticed smoke rising from the back of the adjacent house, but took no notice, because she thought Mr. Roach was burning rubbish. The fumes from next door increased, and on going to the fence she saw that the rear portion of the house was full of smoke, which was pouring out through the windows and door. She rushed into the porch and found the baby, Colin, wandering about the porch, half choked with smoke, looking for his sister, who, he said, was in the house. After getting the boy out in the open air she returned to the house and tried to get into the kitchen, but was beaten back by the flames, which had gained a good hold on the house by that time. Seeing that it was useless to get into the house from the rear, she went round to the front, and was then informed that Miss Roach was across the road with friends. She stopped a passing motorist, who notified the Port Adelaide Fire Brigade. Miss Roach left the house only a few minutes before the fire broke out to go across the road to the house of friends. She said she was certain that everything was in order when she left.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 23 October 1929, page 11

NEW QUEENSTOWN FIRE

In charge of Supt. R. J. Philips, Woodville District Volunteer Fire Brigade attended the fire which occurred at the house owned by Mr James Roach, Dixon street, New Queenstown. Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was not in attendance.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 24 October 1929, page 19

FIRE AT BOWDEN

Iron Shed Damaged

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade received a call at 1.5 p.m. today to a fire in a wood-and-iron shed on the premises of Mrs. M. Page, No. 12 Thirteenth street, Bowden. There was nothing of value in the shed, which contained a quantity of old papers. The fire brigade quickly extinguished

the flames, but not before the shed, which is valued at £30, was badly damaged. The outbreak is supposed to have been caused by a spark from a fire under a copper. The shed was not insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 25 October 1929, page 27

SHED ALIGHT AT HINDMARSH

A call to Thirteenth-street, Bowden, was received yesterday afternoon by the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade. A wood-and-iron shed on the premises of Mrs. M. Page had caught alight through papers being ignited by the fire under a copper. Damage estimated at £30 was done to the structure.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 6 November 1929, page 8

Pen Portraits of People

Hindmarsh Firefighter

When the reunion of members of Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade takes place at the end of this month Mr. Sydney Charles Hocking, of Euston terrace, Croydon, who is Deputy-Chief Officer, will have completed 35 years' continuous service as a volunteer fireman in the municipality. Mr. Hocking is keenly interested in the search for oil in the Commonwealth, and has been a director of the Adelaide Oil Exploration company since its inception. Born at Brompton 53 years ago, he was educated at Hindmarsh and Brompton Schools. He has lived in the district all his life, and retired from the business of fodder merchant about seven years ago. During his long association with the firefighters of Hindmarsh, Mr. Hocking has given much voluntary service to the town. He has assisted in philanthropic movements as a member of a committee, a delegate representing the fire brigade, or in a private capacity. For many years he has assisted in the annual gala day celebrations for Hindmarsh District Trained Nursing Society. The first outbreak of fire that Mr.



MR. S. C. HOCKING

Hocking attended was in the yard of the Metropolitan Brick Company, Limited, Brompton. Probably the largest fire that has occurred at Hindmarsh was at the soapworks of W. H. Burford & Sons, Limited, in Adam street, several years ago. Mr. Hocking who was then

lieutenant, has vivid recollections of the arduous fight against the flames, which threatened large establishments nearby. Thirty-five years ago the brigade had a horse reel and a hand reel. Now it has a Dennis pump and two motor reels, in addition to four motor ambulances. Since boyhood Mr. Hocking has been a Rechabite

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 8 November 1929, page 11

Hindmarsh Volunteer Firemen to Hold Reunion

Hindmarsh residents are proud of their volunteer fire brigade, which will hold a reunion on Saturday evening, November 30. Employers, realising the services that members of the brigade render to the town, allow them to attend an outbreak at whatever time it may occur. When Mr. J. M. Reid, who was a first lieutenant and secretary at the formation of the brigade in November 1884, attended a social gathering at the fire station several years ago, he expressed the opinion that the brigade was the best volunteer one in the world. He is still of that opinion. The brigade began operations with one hand reel. Now the station, which has been enlarged and modernised, contains two motor reels, a Dennis pump, and four motor ambulances. Four of these vehicles can leave the building simultaneously. Mr. F. E. Bucknall, the late Mr. Caleb Peacock, and the late Dr. J. Rees (father of Cr. J. S. Rees, of Adelaide City Council), then Mayor of Hindmarsh, were the first patrons. Dr. Rees was also first president. Other officers were Messrs. W. Scriven (captain) J. M. Reid (first lieutenant and secretary), J. Duncan (second lieutenant), E. J. Coombes and J. Gould (auditors), and the late Mr. A. Burnell (treasurer). According to the first set of rules published the objects of the brigade were "to extinguish fires and the protection of life and property thereat."

Candidates for membership had to be not less than 18 years and not more than 40, and had to live in the municipality. They had to be elected unanimously by the committee or by a majority of two thirds of the members at a general meeting. Each active member was supplied with a uniform and accoutrements, and was held responsible for them. The last reunion was held on March 10, 1919 The first meeting of the brigade was held in the office of Messrs. J. King and Sons, at which were present Messrs. Scriven. Burnell. Duncan, and J. M. Reid. It was decided at that gathering to visit various manufacturers of the district to impress them with the necessity to have a fire brigade. The result was satisfactory, and the brigade was formed soon after. The first hand reel team associated with Mr. J. M. Reid consisted of Capt. Duncan (afterward superintendent). Firemen Burnell and J. McDonald (leaders), J. H. Reid and J. Seeley (shafters), George Coulthard and R. Scarce (at rear). When the brigade designed its present structure the Government in power showed its appreciation by donating £750 toward the cost. Deputy-Chief S. C. Hocking will complete 35 years' service next month. Other officers are Chief Officer G. J. Plenty (31 years). Lieut, E. S. Smith



MR. G. J. PLENTY chief officer of Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade.

(28½), Station Officer P. G. Hocking (25), Foreman A. J. Battersby (24), Instructor T. H. Lonnen (12), Ambulance Officer E. S. Stroud (eight), Ambulance Instructor Fraser. (three). Mr. George Plenty, jun. (five years) is secretary and treasurer. Firemen are E. F. Pearce, P. H. R. Miller, A. Stone (each 20 years), A. McLennan (12), C. H. Hocking (10). R. J. Noble (9), L. Martin, M. E. B. Thomas (8), N. F. Wood (7), R. Wood (6), V. Wood, C. Fulton (5), L. Plenty, W. Meyer, (4), P. Davis (3), G. Stone, F. Webb (2), E. J. Smith. M. Wood (1). In the past 10 years the estimated value of property destroyed by fire and water was £22,085, and the estimated value of property endangered by fire for the same period £172,396.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 21 November 1929, page 13

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

45 Years of Service

To celebrate the 45th anniversary of its inception members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade will hold a reunion dinner on November 30. The brigade has had a long and creditable association with Hindmarsh, having been formed in November, 1884, with Mr. J. M. Reid as secretary. There was only one hand-reel, housed in a small structure. The station, which has been enlarged and modernised, now contains two motor reels, a Dennis pump, and four motor ambulances. The building is constructed to enable four of these vehicles to leave at once. The first patrons were Messrs. F. E. Bucknall and the then mayor of Hindmarsh (Dr. J. Rees). Other officers were: — Captain. Mr. W. Scriven; first lieutenant, Mr. J. M. Reid; second lieutenant, Mr. J. Duncan; treasurer, Mr. A. Burnell. Many of the present officers have been connected with the brigade for a number of years. They are: — Deputy Chief S. C. Hocking (35 years). Chief Officer G. J. Plenty (31). Lieutenant E. S. Smith (28), Station Officer P. G. Hocking (25), Foreman A. J. Battersby (24), and Instructor T. H. Lonnen (12). Firemen E. F. Pearce. P. H. R. Miller, and A. Stone have each given 20 years' service. The report, which will be submitted to the annual meeting of ratepayers to be held in the Hindmarsh Town Hall on Tuesday, states the number of calls answered was 50, with an average attendance of 15 members. It was necessary to use 3,700 ft. of hose. The amount of property saved was estimated at £21,035.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 30 November 1929, page 9

OLD MEMBERS MEET

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade

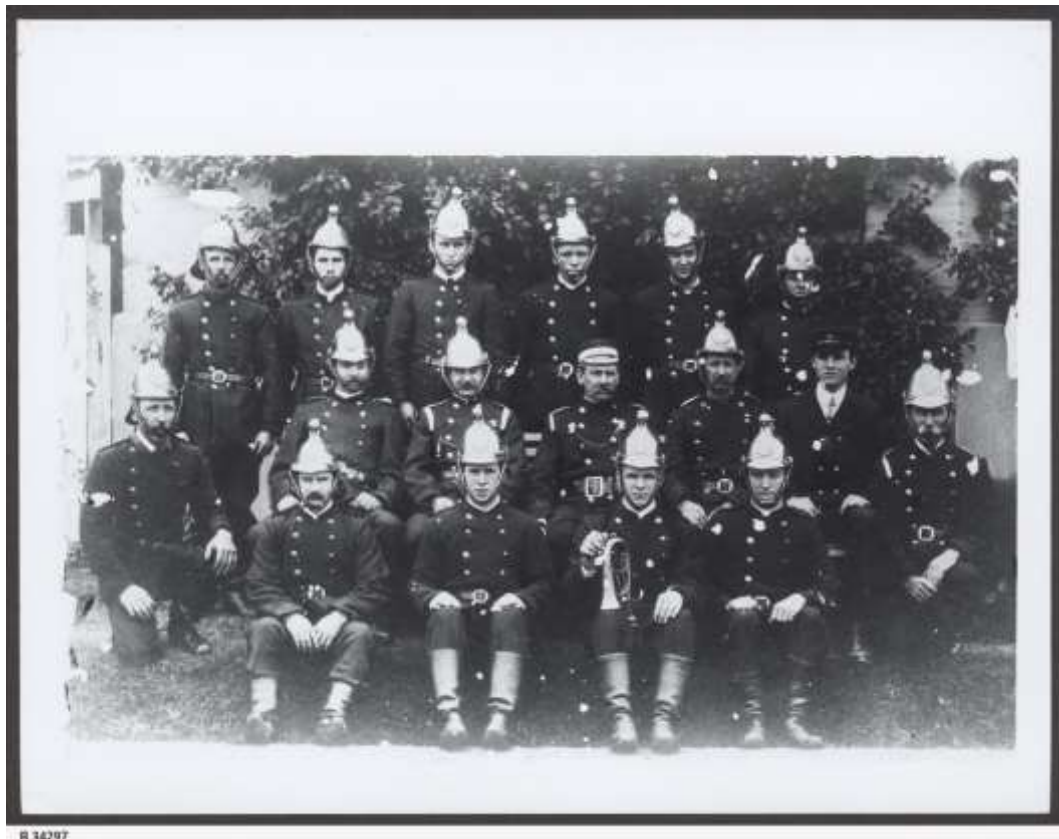
More than 120 past and present members of the Hindmarsh Voluntary Fire Brigade were present tonight at a reunion held in the brigade building to celebrate the forty-fifth anniversary of the inauguration of the brigade. Chief Officer G. J. Plenty occupied the chair. He presented long service awards to Deputy Chief Officer S. C. Hocking (35 years' service bar), Station Officer Hocking (25 years' service bar) and Mr. G. Plenty, secretary (five years' service certificate). The following toasts were honored: — "The Mayor and the Hindmarsh Council" (proposed by T. H. Lommen), responded to by Mr. J. E. Bateup (mayor); "Old Members" (proposed by Chief Officer G. J. Plenty); "First Vice-President" (proposed by Deputy Chief Officer S. C. Hocking); "Visitors" (proposed by Lieut. E. South); "Hindmarsh Voluntary Fire Brigade" (Mr. H. W. Tomkins, mayor-elect).

Monday 2 December 1929 - The Advertiser page 14

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

To celebrate the 45th anniversary of its foundation, a reunion dinner was held in the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade rooms on Saturday night. Chief Officer G. J. Plenty presided. After toast had been proposed and responded to, long service awards were presented to Deputy Chief Hocking (35 years' bar), Station-Officer P. G. Hocking (25 years' bar), and the secretary (Mr. G. J. Plenty, jun.), five years' certificate. Songs were rendered by Ambulance Officer E. Stroud and Station-Officer Hocking, and a clever novelty turn was given by Mr. C. E. Carter.

1930



State Library of South Australia - Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh [B 34297], Members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Note: not to be copied without permission from the donor. Approximately 1930, Part of Hindmarsh Collection.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 29 January 1930, page 1

MOTORIST KILLED CYCLE AND LORRY COLLIDE Hindmarsh Bridge Accident Due to a collision between a motor cycle which he was riding and a motor lorry on Hindmarsh Bridge this afternoon, Mr. Vernon Reuben James Wood, clerk (aged 20 years), of Government road, Croydon, was killed. He was taken to Adelaide Hospital, where he arrived at 2.25 o'clock, but died at 2.40. His injuries included concussion, shock, and a fractured thigh.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 1 February 1930, page 3

HINDMARSH FATALITY: Fire Brigade Mourns The funeral of Mr. Vernon Reuben James Wood, who was killed as a result of an accident at Hindmarsh Bridge on Wednesday was attended with full fire brigade honors. The remains were buried in Hindmarsh Cemetery. Mr. Wood was a son of Ald. W. Wood, of Hindmarsh Council, and would have been 27 years of age on October 2. He had lived in Hindmarsh district all his life. His education was received at Hindmarsh Public School and Muirden College. He began work with Holden and Frost and in recent years was employed at Slaters Limited. For the past six years he had been a member of Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Three other brothers also served in the brigade. As a mark of respect members attended in full regalia, led by Chief Officer G. J. Plenty. The coffin was carried on the Dennis pump. A fire reel was also present. Woodville Volunteer Fire Brigade was represented by a reel. Rev. N. V Hausen officiated. The father of deceased is in charge of a division of the Mutual Life and Citizens Insurance Company, Limited. Members of the division attended the funeral. Members of the Hindmarsh Council and Hindmarsh Bowling Club were also present. Deceased was for some years secretary of the New Hudson Motor Cycle Club. Motor cycling was his only hobby. At the conference of the South Australian branch of the Australian Labor Party a resolution of sympathy with Ald Wood in the loss of his son was adopted.

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

HINDMARSH FIREMEN HONOUR DEAD COMRADE



The funeral of Vernon R. J. Wood, a member of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade, passing along the Port road. On the coffin are the helmet and axe of the dead fireman, who was killed in a head-on collision with a motor lorry.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 1 February 1930, page 20

Pictures from Many Sources: Inter-State Cricket at the Oval: Riverton Threatened by Fire



FUNERAL OF A FIREMAN. The funeral of Fireman V. R. J. Wood, of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade, who was killed in a motor collision on the Port-road, and was buried yesterday in the Hindmarsh Cemetery. Krischock, photo.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 19 February 1930, page 9

Fire at Woodville

Fire destroyed a large shed and contents near the corner of Port and Woodville roads, Woodville, shortly after 11 o'clock last night. Flames were first noticed by Mr. R. Goodfellow, who has a confectionery shop on an adjacent block. He immediately scrambled out of bed and gave the alarm. The shed, which was about 60 ft. by 40 ft., was owned by Mr. Alfred George Berry, out of business. It was at the rear of his home on Port road, and used as a storeroom of secondhand furniture and other goods. Efforts of the Woodville District and Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigades, confined the fire to the shed. Had there been a breeze blowing several shops and houses on the block would have been in grave danger. The shed was insured for £200, and the contents for £200, in the Queensland Insurance Company, Limited.

Register News-Pictorial (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), Wednesday 19 February 1930, page 2

WOMAN AWAKENED BY CRY OF FIRE

Rescues Invalid Husband At Beverley Outbreak

Awakened by the cry, "Get out of the house if you don't want to be burnt in your beds," Mrs. A. G. Berry, who was sleeping on her front verandah of her house in Port road, Beverley, rushed into her house late last night and brought out her invalid husband, while a fire was raging a few yards from the back door. The fire, which began about 11 p.m., destroyed an iron and wood shed measuring 60 ft. by 40 ft. The shed was insured for £200, and contained secondhand furniture, timber, and tools. The Woodville District Volunteer Fire Brigade, assisted by the Hindmarsh brigade, controlled the outbreak after small shed, joined at the rear of the house had been burned. The fire swept within a few feet of a shed containing oil and grease at the rear of the property. When Mrs. Berry was told of the fire, there were four people asleep in the house.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 19 April 1930, page 16

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

The annual dinner of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Firemen's Recreation Club was held at the head station, Hindmarsh, on Friday. The chief officer (Mr. G. J. Plenty) presided. The toast of the mayor and the Corporation of Hindmarsh was proposed by the deputy chief officer (Mr. S. Hocking. Mr. H. W. Tomkins responded, and paid a tribute to the work performed by the chief officer and his staff. The toast of "Parliament" was proposed by Lieutenant Smith, and it was responded to by the Hon. J. McInnes and Mr. A. J. Blackwell M.P.'s) "Kindred Fire Brigades" was honored at the instance of Mr. G. J. Plenty, and was replied to by the secretary of the Woodville District Brigade (Mr. G. E. Acres). Drill Instructor T. H. Lonnen proposed the toast of "The Visitors." Mr. G. Chapman responded. The health of the hosts was proposed by Mr. H. Sims. Mr. G. J. Plenty and Mr. Lonnen responded.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 13 May 1930, page 9

HINDMARSH FIREFIGHTERS

Fine Record of Long Service

SAVE MUCH PROPERTY

In their annual report Messrs. G. J. Plenty, sen. and jun. (chief officer and honorary secretary respectively of Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade) state that property saved from damage by fire by the brigade during the past 12 months was £57,049. Fifty-nine calls to fires and supposed fires were received. Average attendance of members was 16. False alarms numbered 15, 10 of which were malicious, and the others due to line trouble. Thanks are extended to employers of members for having allowed the latter to attend the 13 calls received during working hours. Long service awards were as follow:— Deputy-Chief Officer S. C. Hocking (35-year bar), Station Officer P. G. Hocking (25-year bar), Fireman E. F. Pearce, P. Miller, A. Stone (20-year bars), C. Hocking (10-year medal), A. Curtis, the late Fire-man V. Wood, and C. Fulton (five-year certificate), and Mr. G. J. Plenty (secretary). It is stated in the report that this long-service record is believed to be un-surpassed by any other brigade, volunteer or permanent. Average service of members is 10 years. Officers are:—Chief Officer G. J. Plenty, sen.; Deputy Chief Officer, S. C. Hocking; lieutenant, F. Smith; station officer, P. G. Hocking; foreman, A. J. Battersby; drill instructor, T. H. Lonnen; ambulance officer, E. Stroud; ambulance instructor, W. H. Fraser. Mr. H. Ray is consulting engineer. Dr. G. H. Black honorary surgeon, Mr. M. E. H. Schafer honorary dentist, and Messrs. J. James and L. Martin honorary auditors.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 16 May 1930, page 8

Volunteer Fire Brigade

A. T. Saunders, North Adelaide:—I have a photograph of Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade at No. 1 station taken more than 30 years ago. It depicts the reel and crew—Messrs. J. M. Reid, Arthur E. Burnell, James McDonald, J. H. Reid, John Seeley, James Duncan, George Coulthard, and R. B. Scarce. The turncock is also in the picture, but I do not know his name. Mr. F. K. Nieass, M.P., is reported to have said in regard to volunteer fire fighters—"It is purely a question of employment. That is what unionists have against the voluntary system. If the Trades and Labor Council said that unionists must not belong to volunteer fire brigades none would be allowed to work with men belonging to those organisations."

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 26 May 1930, page 21

PETROL ON FIRE

Early on Sunday morning, a motor car driven by Mr. L. C. Sauerbier, and containing a party of young men, ran out of petrol near the Hindmarsh Bridge. A supply was obtained, and while the petrol was being poured into the tank of the car, one of the party struck a match, which set fire to the spirit. The rear of the car was slightly damaged. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to the fire, which was quickly extinguished.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 2 June 1930, page 5

VOLUNTEER AMBULANCES

Extension to Unley Likely

COUNCIL CONSIDERING

Consideration is being given to the provision of a modern ambulance service at Unley. A proposal is that Hindmarsh Ambulance should serve the district for 10 years. An agreement which will be considered tonight at a meeting of Unley City Council provides for one fully

equipped ambulance car with an attendant to be permanently stationed at Unley and another car always to be available from the head station of the ambulance at Hindmarsh for use at Unley if necessary. Permission is to be granted to the ambulance to raise funds from residents of Unley for the upkeep of the service. A canvass of the district will be made each year. On payment of a minimum donation of 2/6 a year by a householder, husband, wife, and children (under 16 years of age) will be entitled to the use of the ambulance in cases of sickness or accident at any time during the year of the donation. The ambulance agrees to station a second car in the district if it is necessary. Suitable garage accommodation for the cars is to be set apart by the council within its boundaries and sleeping accommodation for all ambulance men on night duty must be provided when necessary. The council will not be responsible for any liability or loss or damage by fire or accident to any of the vehicles which will remain the property of Hindmarsh Ambulance. Mr. George Plenty, jun. (secretary of the ambulance) stated today that his organisation was serving Hindmarsh, Thebarton, Woodville, and West Torrens districts. Henley and Grange would be included shortly. It is the aim of the ambulance to serve the whole of the metropolitan area. The suggestion has been favorably received at Norwood and will probably be adopted by the council in that district.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 3 November 1930, page 9

Rubbish in a pughole at the Metropolitan Brick Company's property, off Coglein street, Brompton, caught fire today. Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade extinguished the blaze.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 4 November 1930, page 1

FACTORY DESTROYED

ESTIMATED DAMAGE £2,000

WEST CROYDON FIRE

Damage estimated at £2,000 was caused by fire at West Croydon early this morning. At 3.15 o'clock Woodville District Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call to the factory owned by Mr. Robert Balfour, icecream cup manufacturer, of Blanford street. It was a wood-and-iron structure about 60 ft. by 80 ft. The stock, plant, and building were either destroyed or damaged by water. The brigade prevented the fire from spreading to the adjacent allotment, on which is the home of Mr. Balfour.

Insurances with the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Limited, and Mercantile Mutual Insurance Company, Limited, amount to £800. Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade also attended.

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

Fire At Hindmarsh Brickyard

A stack of about 60 tons of firewood caught fire late last night at the brickyard of J. Hallett & Sons, John street, New Hindmarsh. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade put out the fire before much damage was done, and prevented the flames from spreading to nearby drying sheds.

1931

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 4 February 1931, page 7

FIERCE FIRE ON PORT-ROAD

£12,000 Damage in 45 Minutes

JOINERY WORKS DESTROYED

Shortly after members of the firm and employes had finished work, at 5 o'clock last night, fire swept through the joinery works of Messrs. W. J. Pimlott & Son, Port-road, Cheltenham. In 45 minutes the premises were destroyed, the damage being estimated at approximately £12,000. Timber and finished woodwork articles comprised the greater part of the contents of the building, which was of wood and iron, and covered an area of about four and a half acres. The dry wood provided excellent fuel for the flames, which rose to a height of nearly 200 ft., and threatened to spread to three wood-and-iron houses on the Port-road, adjoining the southern side of the building, and the motor assembly works of Messrs. S. A. Cheney Ltd.

Terrific Heat

The members of the Woodville and the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigades, and the Port Adelaide Brigade, although they arrived within five minutes of the alarm being given, were unable to cope with the flames, so fiercely did they consume the large amount of combustible material. With six lines of hose running the firemen concentrated on saving the first of the adjoining houses, occupied by Mr. W. Davies. The heat was terrific, and drove a large crowd of spectators from the up to the down track on the Port-road, but the firemen stuck to their task, and succeeded in confining the damage to the house to charred window frames and other outside woodwork on the western side. Fanned by a south-westerly breeze, the flames also looked like spreading to Cheney's works, and several lines of hose had to be rushed to the eastern side of the building to check their progress.

Building Collapses

In the meanwhile the remainder of the building was quickly reduced to a mass of charred iron and woodwork, and the collapse of the galvanized iron walls completed the destruction. Fortunately a petrol bowser owned by the firm was situated in the south-western corner, from which the flames and heat were driven by the wind. It was not damaged. The stock in the building included 1,000 doors, ready for delivery, a large number of new coffins, and portion of a recent shipment of timber. The machinery destroyed is valued at between £5,000 and £6,000. The occupants of the houses in danger hurriedly removed their belongings, but replaced them when the danger had passed. The fence and fowl and pigeon houses were destroyed on the property occupied by Mr. Davis.

Covered by Insurance

The manager (Mr. A. V. Pimlott) stated last night that when he left the building at 5.10 p.m., after the usual examination, everything appeared all right. All the electrical appliances had been switched off. The loss was partly covered by insurance.

Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Saturday 4 April 1931, page 16

HINDMARSH FIREMEN'S GALA

Members of the Hindmarsh Ambulance and Volunteer Fire Brigade held their annual gala day and dinner yesterday. Bowls matches preceded the dinner, which was given in the big room at the station. The toast of the "Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and Ambulance"

was proposed by Mr. J. Duncan, a former superintendent, and was supported by Mr. H. Wakefield, a former deputy-superintendent. Chief Officer G. J. Plenty responded. "The Recreation Club" was proposed by Fireman A. Curtis, and responded to by Drill Instructor T. H. Lonnen.

Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Saturday 4 April 1931, page 20



FIREMEN RELAXED yesterday to enjoy the annual dinner tendered to members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade. The photograph shows a section of the men at the banquet.
Adelaide Photos by Krischock.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 6 May 1931, page 4

FIRE STATIONS MAY UNITE

Volunteer Scheme

BRIGADE SUGGESTED FOR HENLEY

If the wishes of council representatives who met in conference at Woodville District Council chamber last night are fulfilled there will shortly be an amalgamation of the Hindmarsh and Woodville District Volunteer Fire Brigades, and probably the establishment of a branch at Henley Beach. The proposal is to include the Henley and Grange municipality in the scheme, and to call the brigade the Western Districts Volunteer Fire Brigade." Those who attended the conference were Crs. C. C. Cooke (chairman), F. A. Box, E. W. Kelsey, and Mr. G. A. M. Ralph (representing Woodville District Council), Crs. J. A. R. Eyre and W. R. Badenoch (representing Henley and Grange Corporation and Henley and Grange Fire Brigade Investigation Committee), Ald. W. Wood (Hindmarsh Corporation). Superintendent G. J. Plenty, sen. and Mr. G. J. Plenty, jun. (Hindmarsh brigade), and Superintendent R. J. Philps (Woodville brigade). Conference discussed a recommendation to Woodville Council, which was submitted by Mr. Ralph. It was suggested that the new name be the Western Districts Volunteer Fire Brigade. All delegates favored the proposal to amalgamate, and approved the name suggested. A resolution to that effect was adopted, and will be submitted to the various bodies concerned.

Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Tuesday 26 May 1931, page 8

WESTERN FIRE BRIGADES

The Hindmarsh Corporation, at its meeting last night, decided to protest against the proposal to create a fire brigade under the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board in the western districts. The following resolution was adopted:—"That the council supports the suggested amalgamation of the Hindmarsh, Woodville, and Henley Beach Councils as a fire district under the present volunteer fire brigades at Woodville and Hindmarsh, and will oppose any efforts to load our rate-payers with the heavy expense of a permanent brigade at present."

Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Wednesday 27 May 1931, page 11

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES DEFENDED

"Not Keeping Men Out of Work"

"The unemployed have been led astray when they have been told that the volunteer fire brigade scheme keeps men out of work," said the chief of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade (Mr. G. J. Plenty), yesterday. He was commenting on the action of the unemployed in calling upon the United Trades and Labor Council to oppose volunteer fire brigades. Mr. Plenty said that a permanent brigade for Hindmarsh and Woodville, instead of the two voluntary brigades, as at present, would give work to about a dozen firemen. As a direct result, about 20 council employes would have to be dismissed. Six hundred pounds a year would have to be spent on the brigade instead of on roads.

Men With Two Jobs

Mr. Plenty said there were 105 auxiliary firemen in the State—men connected with permanent brigades who were paid for two jobs. In the city these men worked during the day, and went on duty at places of amusement in the evenings. In the country, men who had their own jobs were paid for working for auxiliary brigades, which were just the same as the volunteer brigades. "Why not start on these auxiliary firemen?" asked Mr. Plenty. "Why not have them dismissed and their jobs given to unemployed men?"

Four Brigades

There are four volunteer fire brigades—Hindmarsh, Woodville, Victor Harbour, and Crystal Brook (recently re-organised). There are between 70 and 80 men attached to these brigades.

Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Friday 5 June 1931, page 20

PERSONAL

The chief officer of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade (Mr. G. J. Plenty) presented Lieut. E. S. Smith with a 30-year bar to his long service medal, and District Ambulance Officer W. H. Fraser with his five-year certificate, at the monthly meeting of the brigade.

Advertiser and Register (Adelaide, SA : 1931), Friday 24 July 1931, page 21

Volunteer Brigade Makes Good Save

A smart turnout by the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade last night saved the infant classroom of the Hindmarsh public school from serious damage. A messenger reported the blaze to the brigade at 7.31, and, before the hooter at the gasworks had given its usual

warning, the brigade was on the scene. It is believed that the fire was caused by a spark from a fireplace. Half of a folding partition was burnt and the total damage is estimated at about £100.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 14 November 1931, page 16

PREMATURELY KINDLED

Firelighters Ablaze

A good save was made by the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade when a fire broke out in the fire kindlers department of W. H. Burford & Sons' factory at Adam-street, Hindmarsh, at 5.55 a.m. on Friday. The factory contains large quantities of highly inflammable material, and the fire may have been disastrous if it had not been checked quickly. The damage was about £75.

1932

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 9 January 1932, page 1

£60 Damage in Croydon Fire

Damage amounting to £60 was done by fire this afternoon to kitchen furniture and other articles in the home of Mr. Burdus, Hawker street, Croydon. Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade soon had the outbreak under control. It is not known how the fire began. The occupants of the house were absent at the time. Constable Rose, of Hindmarsh, is preparing a report for the coroner.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 21 March 1932, page 12

Empty House Destroyed By Fire At Henley

A wood and iron five-roomed house at the corner of Adelaide road and Military road, Henley Beach, was destroyed by fire last night. The house was unoccupied and unfurnished. When the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade arrived the house was blazing fiercely, and all the firemen could do was to prevent the flames from spreading to a nearby motor garage. Fireman Miller was burned on the hand.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 26 March 1932, page 7

CREDIT OF AUSTRALIA HIGH

Mr. McInnes, M.P., At Hindmarsh

Speaking at the annual dinner of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade yesterday, the Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. McInnes) said that by adopting the Premiers' Plan the credit of Australia today was as high as that of any country in the world. It had turned the corner, and with the return of high prices for exports, the country would soon be on the way to prosperity.

Government Did Right Thing

Mr. McInnes said he was satisfied that the Government and Parliament had done the only thing possible, considering the times they were passing through. Default was the only alternative, and no right-thinking person would tolerate that. If it had not been for the Premiers' Plan legislation passed by the Federal and State Parliaments, South Australia

would not have been able to pay more than 14/ in the £, instead of being in a position to meet its commitments. Mr. Blackwell said he was "in the blue" for having supported the Government and the Premiers' Plan, but he was satisfied he had done the right thing. "The world seems to be dying for the want of real statesmen. We do not want politicians, but men who will work for all classes," said the acting Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. J. E. Bateup), in proposing the toast of Parliament. Deputy Superintendent Hocking proposed "The Hindmarsh Council." Mr. Bateup responded. Lieutenant Smith, in proposing "Kindred Brigades." said the efficiency of volunteer fire brigades had been criticised. On the previous Sunday the Hindmarsh Brigade had received a call to a burning house at Henley Beach, and was on the spot in seven minutes. Deputy Superintendent H. Trust (Woodville Brigade) replied. The superintendent presented a 10-year service medal to Fireman Martin.

Saved £13,000 Worth Of Property

The annual report of the brigade, presented by the secretary (Mr G Plenty, jun.), said that the total number of calls during the year was 26, of which the false alarms were 14. The estimated value of the property saved from damage was £13,740. Long service awards had been made to the following:—Chief ambulance officer. E. Stroud, 10 year medal; district ambulance officer. W. H. Fraser, five year certificate; and Drill Instructor T. Lonnen, 15 year bar. Plant was valued at £3,000.

Bowls Contest

The pairs bowling contest, held in the morning, resulted:—L. Plenty and E. Smith, 35; W. Holt and A. Stone, 31, M. Wood and A. Batterby, 28; E. Smith and L. Martin, 28; G. Chapman and O. Harley, 24; R. J. Martin and P. Millaer, 24; G. Stone and R. Wood, 22; P. Davis and C. Fulton, 19; W. Bacchus and F. Pearce, 18; C. Blackwood and N. Wood, 16.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 6 June 1932, page 7

Death of Mr. John Reid at 73

Mr. John Marshall Reid, aged 73, who died at his home, Tarrangower, Victoria avenue, Unley Park, was the proprietor of John Reid & Sons, tanners and leather merchants. He was born at Windsor, Melbourne, and educated at Whinham College. He joined his father in the tannery business when he left college. The founder of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, he was for many years prominent in the Rotary Club of Adelaide. He was a former president of the Adelaide Oval Bowling Club, and a member of the Central Club in Ballarat (Victoria). Mr. Reid was a member of the South Australian Chamber of Commerce. He leaves a widow and two daughters Lady Bruce and Mrs. William M. Gillard, of Clare.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 7 June 1932, page 12

MR. J. M. REID DEAD

Prominent Business Career

Mr. John Marshall Reid, principal of the firm of John Reid & Sons, tanners and leather merchants, died yesterday at the age of 73 at his home, Tarrangower, Victoria avenue, Unley Park.

Mr. Reid, who was prominently associated with the industrial and commercial activities of the State for many years, was born of Scottish parents at Windsor, Victoria. He was the

second son of the late Mr. John Reid, who founded the business of tanners, fancy leather dressers, grindery, and bark merchants, of Gresham street, Adelaide, in 1873. Before that his father had been a partner in the firm of Reid Brothers, tanners, of Hindmarsh.

Mr. John Marshall Reid, on leaving Whinham College at the age of 15, began business with his father. When the latter died in 1888 the business was formed into a limited liability company. Mr. Reid was elected a member of the South Australian Chamber of Manufactures in 1901 and was president on three occasions. In 1905 he directed a successful exhibition held by the chamber. At the annual conference of the Federal Council of Chambers of Manufactures of Australia, held at Launceston in 1906, he was elected vice-president and at the end of that year was unanimously elected president.

Mr. Reid was chiefly instrumental in the formation of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1884, and was superintendent for 16 years. As a mark of appreciation of his services he will be buried with fire brigade honors today. He was a generous supporter of the ambulance in Hindmarsh during the war, and the late Mrs. Reid gave the children's playground at Hindmarsh. Mr. Reid was for three years president of the Adelaide Oval Bowling Club. In memory of his late wife, who died on the homeward journey from England, Mr. Reid endowed a cot in perpetuity in the Adelaide Children's Hospital. Mr. Reid, who was married three times, leaves two daughters of his first marriage — Lady Bruce, of Medindie, and Mrs. W. M. Gillard, of Clare.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 30 June 1932, page 9

Bootshop Guttled at Welland.

Stock and Plant Lost

DAMAGE estimated at between £550 and £600 was caused by a fire which completely gutted the bootmaker's shop of Mr. George Percy Skewes, of Fisher street, Welland, early today. Most of the loss was covered by insurance. Stock and plant in the shop, which is on the corner of Fisher street and Welland avenue, Welland, including many pairs of boots and shoes, and a sewing machine and leather roller were destroyed, and the loss may be more than £400. Damage to the property was calculated at £150.

The crash of the falling roof was the first intimation Mr. Skewes had of the fire. He sleeps next door, and rushed outside to see the whole shop ablaze. The outbreak was first discovered about 3.30 a.m., by Mr. Campbell, of Frederick street, Welland. He communicated with the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade, which rushed to reels to the scene. The fire by that time had a firm hold on the shop and it was impossible to subdue the flames. The fire was prevented from spreading to the adjoining building, in which Mr. Skewes lives, however, and damage to that building was confined to the outside, which was scorched slightly. Part of the interior was also drenched with water. Four plateglass windows in front of the shop were totally destroyed. It was reported that these were not insured. Constable Sayers, of Kilkenny, is preparing a report for the coroner. (Picture on Page 1)

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 30 June 1932, page 1

All That Was Left After Today's Fire



DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £550 was caused by a fire today in the boot maker's shop of Mr. G. P. Skewes on the corner of Fisher street and Welland avenue, Welland.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 25 July 1932, page 7

CHEMIST TRAPPED IN FLAMES

Man Badly Burnt At Bowden

LABORATORY ABLAZE

Trapped in an inferno of blazing chemicals, Silas Wilson (56), of 33, Gibson street, Bowden, was terribly burnt at noon on Sunday, and is now lying in the Adelaide Hospital in a serious condition. Mr. Wilson, who is a manufacturing chemist, was working at his house in a back room, which he had converted into a laboratory. He was extracting the benzol from oil distilled from coal tar, in order to make it the right consistency to make phenyl, an operation which he has performed for years. The oil was in a petrol tin on a kerosene stove, and he was keeping it at a temperature of 210 degrees Fahrenheit. He noticed a spot of water drop on to the oil, and he knew the danger. He rushed over to put out the stove on the other side of the room, and saw another drop of water enter the oil. Immediately there was an explosion, and the whole room was a raging inferno of blazing, highly inflammable oil. The explosion jammed the door, which did not have a knob on it. Mr. Wilson rushed to it, and

tried to tear it open with his fingers. He rushed to the window, which has a drop of eight or nine feet into a gully, and then screamed for help.

Screams Heard

Mrs. Wilson, who was in the kitchen preparing dinner, a son, Gavin Roy Wilson (15), and a friend, Albert Coppi, who were in another room playing cards, thought that Wilson was calling from the locked room for his dinner. His younger son, Percy (12), heard his screams, however, and, rushing down a passage, pushed the door open. Immediately through the doorway there was a great burst of flames, which scorched the wallpaper and door frame opposite, and scorched the doors of two other rooms 12 feet away.

Human Torch

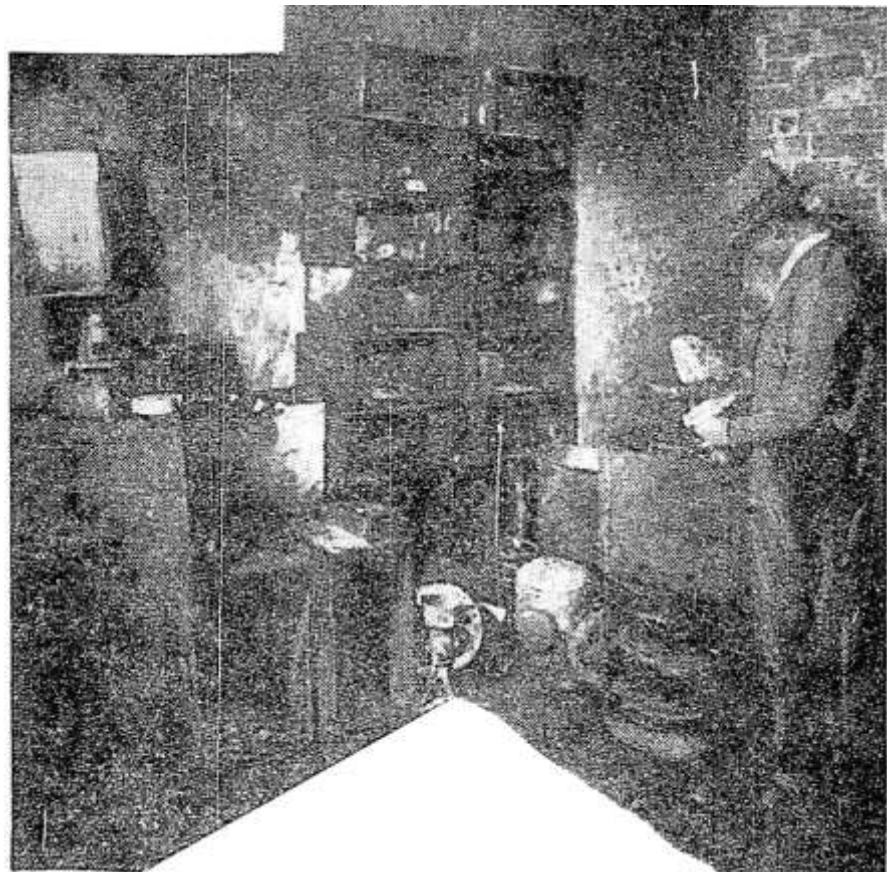
Wilson came staggering through the flames, a human torch, and rolled on the floor of the room opposite to extinguish them. Mrs. Wilson and the son Gavin came rushing from the back of the house, and Gavin threw a rug over his father, who rolled in it. The other youth, Coppi, ran to the nearest telephone and called the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Station-Officer Hocking and Foreman Fireman A. J. Battersby were on the scene in a few minutes with two reels and nearly 20 firemen. Lieut. Smith, who was not at the station when the alarm was given, arrived a few minutes later and took charge.

Stood Under Shower Bath

When Foreman Battersby ran into the house he saw Wilson near a back tap throwing dishes of water over himself. The flames were out, but he was in a terrible condition. All the hair from his head and face was gone. The arms had been burnt out of a coat he was wearing, and strips of burnt skin were hanging from his face and arms. His trousers were burnt off nearly to the waist, and his legs were terribly burnt. Mr. Battersby hurried him into a room and wrapped him in a blanket, and turned to give his attention to the fire, which appeared as though it might demolish the house. Rushing back into the bathroom, he saw Wilson standing in the bath under the shower. The Hindmarsh Ambulance followed close on the heels of the brigade, and Wilson was rushed to the Adelaide Hospital.

"I was lying on a bed in my room when I heard father scream out," said Stanley Wilson, who was the first on the scene. "I rushed to the lab, and found the door closed. I pushed it open, and the flames burst out into the passage. I could not see father. He then rushed through the flames into the room opposite and rolled on the floor, and my brother threw a blanket over him." William Henry Wilson, another son, who lives in Adelaide, was injured in the explosion at Hubbard's, Grote street, five weeks ago, when a spark from a magneto set off a quantity of petrol, which was being poured from a tin, and injured three men.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 25 July 1932, page 8



NEIGHBORS clearing away debris today following the explosion and fire at the home of Mr. S. Wilson, Gibson street, Bowden, yesterday. Mr. Wilson was manufacturing chemicals when the explosion occurred. He was badly burned.—"News" picture.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 27 July 1932, page 8

£2,000 FIRE AT HINDMARSH

Heavy Damage Done in Tailor's Shop

STOCK: FITTINGS

STOCK and fittings, valued at £2,000 were destroyed or badly damaged by a fire in Mr. H. J. L. Worthley's tailor shop at Port road, Hindmarsh about 4.10 a.m. today. Most of the damage was covered by insurance. Patrolling the road, Constable Rose of Hindmarsh noticed smoke issuing from the shop. He communicated with the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Deputy-Superintendent S.R. Hocking with 20 men and two reels were soon on the scene. The flames which were confined to the inside of the shop were soon under control. It is believed that the fire began in a corner of the shop which had been used as an office. Stationery and records were kept there. The shop was locked shortly after 6 p.m. yesterday by Messrs. Worthley, the proprietor, and A. H. L. Steele, a salesman. Mr. Worthley said that he returned to the shop about 7.15 p.m. to get his pipe before going to a meeting. He was in the shop for a few minutes only. Mr. Worthley said today that arrangements would be made to continue business. He was trying to find temporary accommodation so that the employees could carry on. The stock was insured by the Sun Insurance Company, and the building, which is owned by J. King & Son, of Hindmarsh, was insured with the Bankers and Traders Insurance Company for £900. Constable W.C. Miller is preparing a report for the coroner.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 26 September 1932, page 5

MEDALS FOR FIRE FIGHTERS

Record Of Hindmarsh Brigade

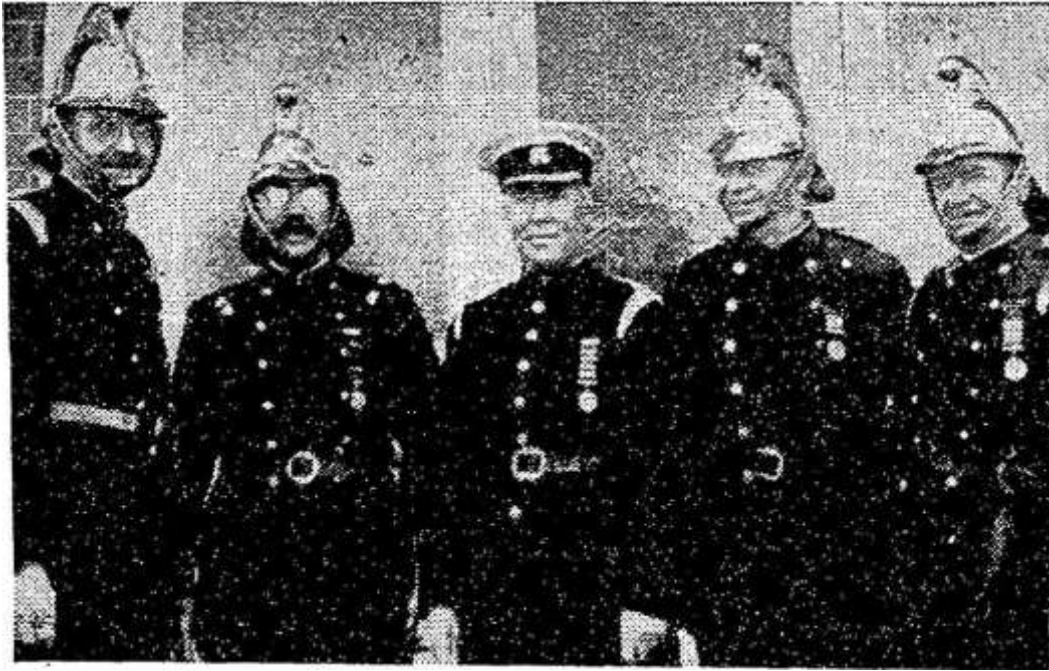
Medals awarded by the National Fire Brigades' Association, London, for long and honorable service, will be presented by the Chief Secretary (Mr. Whitford) at the Hindmarsh Fire Station tomorrow night.

Medals will be presented to:—Chief Officer G. J. Plenty, 34 years' service; Deputy Chief Officer S. C. Hocking, 38 years; Lieutenant E. S. Smith, 31; Station Officer P. G. Hocking, 28; Foreman A. J. Battersby, 27; Instructor T. H. Lonnen, 16; Chief Ambulance Officer E. S. Stroud, 10; Firemen E. F. Pearce, 23; P. H. R. Miller, 23; A. McLennan, 15; C. H. Hocking, 13; A. A. Stone, 23; L. Martin, 10.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade is the first fire brigade in Australia to receive awards from this association. The brigade was established in 1884. Its present membership is 30 officers and men.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 27 September 1932, page 5

To Receive Long Service Medals



SOME OF THE MEMBERS of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade who will receive medals for long and honorable service, presented by the National Fire Brigades' Association, London, from the Chief Secretary (Mr. Whitford) tonight. The brigade is the first in Australia to receive such awards. Left to Right—Deputy Chief-Officer S. C. Hocking (38 years' service), Fireman A. J. Battersby (28), Chief-Officer G. J. Plenty (34), Station-Officer P. G. Hocking (28), Lieut. E. S. Smith (31).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 31 October 1932, page 9

CYCLONIC STORM

70 Telegraph Poles Torn Down

HOUSE UNROOFED

East-West Telegraph Service Cut Off

A disturbance of cyclonic formation, accompanied by spectacular lightning and loud thunder, passed over Adelaide on Saturday night. The only serious damage reported in the suburbs was the un-roofing of a house at Torrensville. The electrical emanations interfered with wireless reception and the telephone services, but there was little rain, and the wind, although strong, generally did not exceed 32 miles an hour. The low which was responsible for the disturbance, had travelled across from Western Australia, and apparently was at the peak of its energy after having crossed the border of this State, where it caused havoc to the overland telegraph lines, snapping off 20 stout iron poles out of about 70 which were blown over west of Port Augusta. Serious interruptions were occasioned to the telegraphic service to Perth. Temporary repairs enabled the land line to be used at 4 p.m. yesterday, but there are days of work to be done. Half the roof of the home of Mrs. D. C. Wilkinson, at the corner of Myer and Minchin streets, Torrensvine collapsed when the tornado struck it shortly after 8 p.m. A section of the iron and timber, about 25 ft. by 15 ft., was lifted bodily from the building, and, cutting through electric light and telephone wires landed in the back yard of Mr. R. Clarke, on the opposite side of the street, about 130 ft. away. Another section,

twisted like paper, was deposited in Mrs. Wilkinson's back yard, and a further piece is hanging precariously to the ridge pole.

Received Full Force Of Gale

The house, situated on the corner of a street facing the north-west received the full force of the gale, which came from that direction. Mrs Wilkinson was talking to Mrs. Watts, a neighbor, on her front verandah, two doors down Minchin street, and her four children, Dorothy (11), Pamela (9), Barbara (4), and Donald (20 months), with Roma Evans, a little friend, were having a concert in the dining-room. Just before the crash Roma had been playing the piano. "It was all over in a second or two," said Mrs. Wilkinson yesterday morning. "I was speaking to Mrs. Watts, and, hearing a crash, I saw the roof of my house lifted bodily and a big section land in Mr. Clarke's yard. The street lights went out immediately. I cried, "My God, the children." and tore in. By the time I had reached the back of my house it was all over. The house was in darkness, but I met the children at the back door looking scared, and one of them was crying. They were not terrified, however" The window of the front bedroom was blown bodily into the middle of the room, but, strangely, none of the glass in it was broken. All the furniture escaped damage. "I am grateful to neighbors who removed my furniture and took care of the children," said Mrs. Wilkinson. "One stayed with Mrs. Clarke, one with Mrs. Evans, and the other two with Mrs. Watts." Mrs. Wilkinson said that she remained in the house until after midnight. She put the baby, Donald on a box covered with a mattress and he slept through it all. Mrs. Watts came in somewhere about 1 o'clock and said she would not sleep if Mrs. Wilkinson did not come to her place so she and the baby stayed there the night. Mrs. Wilkinson said that she "slept like a top" all night. She was for three years an Army nurse, and she remarked that her experience on Saturday night was not nearly as bad as an air raid. Mr. Wilkinson is at Bendigo, Victoria.

The electric light wires which were cut by the flying iron were alive and a menace to passers-by. A neighbor put a red light in the middle of the road, and warned people until Constables Thoroughgood and Fleming, of Thebarton, arrived to keep people away while Adelaide Electric Supply Company employes repaired the damage. This was the only house in the district which suffered material damage as a result of the storm.

A blinding flash of lightning shortly after 8 p.m. crossed the call wires at a fire alarm at West street, Brompton, and rang the bell at the Brompton gas works. The engineer on duty blew the hooter, and the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade turned out to find that the lightning had given the signal.

Tangled Mass Of Wires

The Superintendent of Telegraphs (Mr. P. G. Simmons) said yesterday that the disturbance struck the East-West line at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, and 70 poles were blown to the ground over four sections of the line at 180, 440, 492, and 554 miles west of Port Augusta. The disturbance started with a severe wind storm, accompanied by clouds of dust and thunder and lightning. The P.M.G.'s Department and the Commonwealth Railways each had three lines on the poles. When the storm had passed the lines had been reduced to a tangled mass, making the work of the repair gangs, which had been hastened to the scene, particularly difficult. The wind was so strong that the gangs travelling in petrol driven vehicles on the rails were able only to make 10 miles an hour.

Temporary Repairs Effected

Temporary repairs are being made by the gangs, but it will be impossible to make permanent repairs for one or two days. The breakdown of the service occurred at a bad time for the Telegraph Department, as Western Australians were anxious to hear the result of the Derby in Melbourne, and South Australians were just as keenly interested in the international cricket in Perth. The department managed to maintain touch with Perth by utilising the Eastern Extension Company's cable between Adelaide and Cottesloe, and also received assistance from Coastal telegraphic wireless stations between Perth and Melbourne. Traffic was restored over the land route at 4 p.m. yesterday, and an hour later it was practically on time, but some delay was anticipated owing to the temporary nature of the repairs. Permanent repairs, however, are being pushed on as rapidly as possible, and a normal service is anticipated today. An attempt was made on Saturday to reach Perth via Darwin. This meant using the telegraph line to Darwin and the wireless between Darwin and Broome, and thence to Perth by line, but atmospheric conditions were too severe.

"Not A Cyclone"

The Divisional Meteorologist (Mr. E. Bromley) said yesterday that the centre of the disturbance must have passed fairly close to Adelaide. He explained that the disturbance that struck Adelaide, although of cyclonic formation, was not a cyclone. In a cyclonic disturbance of tornadic nature, said Mr. Bromley, it was to be expected that a number of eddies might be set up which, when passing over a populated area, might cause damage such as occurred to the house at Torrensville. There was nothing of a sensational nature in the disturbance. The wind had been fairly strong, reaching a maximum of 32 miles an hour at the Observatory. Mr. Bromley said that the disturbance was rather characteristic of the storm systems experienced this spring, which were mostly of tropical origin, the usual southerly disturbances being conspicuous by their absence. Disturbances of tropical origin were likely to develop some cyclonic characteristics. The barometer had risen yesterday, and the disturbance had passed in a south-easterly direction towards Tasmania. As a tram was about to leave the Enfield terminus shortly after 8 p.m. on Saturday, an electrical fault made a flash in the circuit breaker. This caused flashes of flame, but it did no damage to the car. The passengers waited until the next tram arrived and proceeded to the city. At the time vivid lightning was at its worst, and gave every appearance of having caused the flash in the tramcar. Mr. C. D. Moyes, general secretary of the Metropolitan Tramways Trust, said that trams were provided with safety devices to resist lightning.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 12 November 1932, page 19

Motor Cycle On Fire.—The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to extinguish a blazing motor cycle on the Port road at 12.30 a.m. today. The machine, owned by McMahan's Agency and ridden by Mr. H. E. Graham, backfired and caught alight. About £8 worth of damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 24 November 1932, page 11

£400 DAMAGE BY FIRE AT CROYDON

Workshops And Motor Boat Destroyed

The joinery works and workshops of Arthur Gordon Mutton, at Robert street, Croydon Park, were completely destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon. A motor boat and motor cycle in the

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

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11 December 2024

shed were also damaged. The property was uninsured, and the loss is estimated at more than £400. The fire started in an adjoining empty garage, and quickly spread to the workshops where the motor boat and motor cycle and valuable machinery were kept. Residents were attracted by the blaze, and the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received more than a dozen telephone calls in as many minutes. Two motor reels in charge of Chief Officer Plenty went to the scene, and found that the works were beyond saving. They concentrated their efforts on preventing the fire from spreading to adjoining properties. The flames already had a good hold on a stack of scaffolding and scaffold poles the property of Mr. H. S. C. Jarvis, contractor, on the adjoining allotment. The flames were not subdued until they had partly destroyed two large concrete towers standing near the scaffolding, but the largest portion of Mr. Jarvis's building equipment was saved. The loss suffered by Mr. Jarvis can not be ascertained until the owner, who is at Barmera, returns to the city.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 12 December 1932, page 15

Small Fire, But Plenty Of Excitement

The sounding of the warning hooters at the gasworks at Brompton, and the sight of two fire appliances dashing from the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade alarmed residents about 9 o'clock on Saturday night. All the excitement was caused by a small fire, which broke out in a pughole, and was soon extinguished by the firemen. The hooters at the gasworks are automatically sounded when a street fire alarm in the vicinity is operated.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 14 December 1932, page 5

WATER PRESSURE LOW AT FIRE

Hindmarsh Brigade Complains Evidence of the low water pressure in the Croydon district was given today when the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade received a call to the property of Messrs. A. C. Jones and E. Mansfield, where grass and box-thorn had caught alight. Sixteen men under control of Deputy Chief Officer Hocking soon had the flames under control. But Mr. G. Plenty, jun., secretary of the brigade, said that had it been a house which had caught alight the brigade could not have been able to cope with the flames owing to the poor pressure of water. According to Mr. Plenty the gauge at the station showed only 35 lb., whereas a good pressure would register practically double that. The jet issuing from the hose was only nine feet long. Normally the distance was at least 30 ft. In the opinion of Mr. Plenty the pressure was the weakest he had seen for several years. Residents of the district are endeavoring to get up a petition to protest against the poor pressure.

NO COMPLAINTS AT HENLEY

In the south and western districts the councils have received no complaints about poor water pressure. The Town Clerk of Henley and Grange (Mr. Winwood) said the pressure in Henley was a little below normal, but was not serious. If a fire broke out during the day he did not expect there would be any trouble, but in the evening—when many people watered their gardens—the poor pressure might be a hindrance. In other districts a satisfactory pressure has been reported. Many complaints were made in the Prospect and Norwood districts about the water pressure last summer, but it was reported today that following the installation of new mains, the position was much more satisfactory.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 3 December 1932, page 2

Firefighting Family

WHERE there's a fire there's a Hocking to fight it—in the Hindmarsh district, at any rate. Three of the members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, who this week received awards for long service from the National Fire Brigades Association, London, are Hockings. And with three Hocking brothers who were previously members of this brigade there is an aggregate of 100 years' service for six Hockings in the Hindmarsh corps.

Of the present firemen, Station-Officer P. G. Hocking has had 28 years in the brigade, Deputy Chief-Officer S. C. Hocking (a cousin) 38 years, and Fireman C. H. Hocking (a nephew) 13 years. An aggregate of 21 years' service stands to the credit of three brothers of Station-Officer Hocking—Messrs. C. R. Hocking, W. Hocking, and the late A. Hocking— each of whom gained long-service certificates. Their father, the late Mr. C. R. Hocking, was not a fireman, but he was for 18 years in the local council. "In spite of the danger, there's a fascination about fire-fighting," said Station-Officer Hocking. "There's the knowledge, too, that one is rendering the town good service."

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 15 December 1932, page 16

Poor Water Pressure at Croydon Fire

Because of poor water pressure, 16 men of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, under Deputy Chief Officer Hocking, were needed to extinguish a fire on the property of Messrs. A. C. Jones and E. Mansfield at Wright street, Croydon, yesterday. Grass and boxthorn caught alight, but the firemen soon had it under control. The secretary of the brigade (Mr. G. Plenty, jun.) said that the pressure registered at the station, which gave a general indication for the district, was the weakest experienced for years. The gauge read 35 lb. pressure, whereas the normal reading was 45 to 50 lb. The hoses only threw a 9 ft. stream instead of the normal jet from the nozzle of 30 ft.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 20 December 1932, page 10

Long Service Awards For Firemen

Members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and South Australian Ambulance Brigade will be tendered a social by Chief Officer G. J. Plenty at the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade tomorrow night. Long service awards will be presented to Firemen N. Wood (10 years' medal), and A. McLennan (15 years' bar). On Thursday night the firemen's recreation club will give a Christmas party and tree to the children of firemen.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 20 December 1932, page 10

Fire Alarm At North Croydon.—The need for a fire alarm at North Croydon was mentioned by Councillor J. T. Wood at a Hindmarsh Council meeting last night. It was resolved to direct the attention of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade to the matter.

1933

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 17 January 1933, page 3

The Hindmarsh Council has written to the local fire brigade with a request that a fire alarm should be placed at the corner of Government and Torrens roads, Croydon. The nearest alarm at present is about a mile away from that spot, according to Cr. Scott-Todd.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 25 January 1933, page 7

PREMIER TO OPEN BOWLS EVENING

More than 300 invitations have been issued for the president's evening at the Hindmarsh Bowling Club tomorrow night, in aid of the Kuitpo Industrial Colony. The function is being organised by the president (Ald. J. E. Bateup) and Mrs. Bateup, and will be opened at 8 o'clock by the Premier (Mr. Hill). Others present will include Mrs. Hill, the Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. McInnes), Mr. Blackwell, M.P., and members of the Hindmarsh Council. A reel demonstration will be given at 9.30 by the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade. There will also be musical items. Badges to raise funds for the Kuitpo Industrial Colony will be sold. Friendly games of bowls will be played on the green.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 17 February 1933, page 8

Damage estimated at £60 was caused by a fire early today at the premises of the South Australian Brick Co., Torrens road, Devon Park. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, which was called at 6.30 a.m., quickly extinguished the blaze. About 30 tons of wood and a shed were alight.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 1 March 1933, page 6

HOSES DAMAGED IN PUGHOLE FIRES

Complaining that much damage had been caused to firemen's uniforms and boots, and to hoses, through fires in pugholes, and asking that a fee should be paid for attending fires other than in the council rubbish tip, a deputation from the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade waited upon the Hindmarsh Council at its last meeting. Mr. G. J. Plenty, chief of the brigade, said that people from Adelaide and suburbs other than Hindmarsh placed their rubbish in the pugholes, and in the event of a fire Hindmarsh had to meet the cost. Recently nearly 300 feet of hose was destroyed. He asked if it were not possible to prevent people outside Hindmarsh from depositing rubbish there. The mayor (Mr. W. Wood) said that it would be difficult to do that, as a watchman would have to be appointed. The council decided to refer the question to the full committee for discussion.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 15 April 1933, page 15

Minister Says System Should Be Altered

The Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. McInnes) told members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade Recreation Club, at their annual dinner yesterday, that Parliament would have to consider amending the present voting system. If party politics were dropped, said Mr. McInnes, the State could look forward to a more prosperous time. The chairman (Chief Officer Plenty), in proposing "Parliament," said that the brigade did not take political sides. The former Premier (Mr. Hill) had said recently that he had no idea that such a fire brigade and ambulance existed in Australia. The ambulance brigade was deserving of special encouragement. Mr. McInnes said that voluntary brigades should have liberal public support, and he could not understand the people who opposed them. The people of the State had elected a Liberal Government, probably by the smallest percentage of votes with which any Government had been returned. "It shows that something is wrong with the voting system which allows such a thing to happen." said Mr. McInnes, "and proves that Parliament must consider amending and improving the system." The new Government, he added, would not

have a bed of roses and would require the support of all sections in Parliament to help it overcome the grave difficulties it would have to face. He would not be a carping critic, but as far as his conscience would allow he would help the Government. The State was not over the hurdle yet. His criticism would not be destructive, that was, of the type the present Government had been subjected to for three years. Mr. Blackwell said that it was gratifying that he and Mr. McInnes had been returned against so many opponents. If the brigade were as efficient in the future as in the past it need not be afraid that volunteer fire brigades would be wiped out. "Kindred Brigades" was proposed by Lieutenant E. Smith. He said that if voluntary brigades were properly organised, the State would be saved a lot of money. Foreman Burns, of Woodville, responded. Instructor T. H. Lonnen proposed "The Visitors," and Mr. G. Chapman responded. "The Firemen's Recreation Club" was submitted by Mr. McInnes, and the president (Fireman A. McLennan) replied. Ten pairs played in the annual bowls tournament of members of the Hind-marsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, held on the Hindmarsh Bowling Club's rinks yesterday morning. The highest scores were:—Foreman Battersby and Fireman W. Wood, 35; Firemen A. Stone and B. Wood, 33; Firemen F. Whitcomb and R. Henley, 31; Firemen P. Miller and L. Satley, 30.

Other References on Page 16

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 16 June 1933, page 5

HINDMARSH FIRE DOES £150 DAMAGE

Damage estimated at £150 was caused by a fire which broke out last night in the confectionery shop of Mr. F. Dobbie between Hindmarsh School and Post Office, off Milner street. Mr. Dobbie is in the country. About 200 people watched men from the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade fight the flames, which had a firm hold on the interior of the shop. It is not known how the fire was caused.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 20 June 1933, page 10

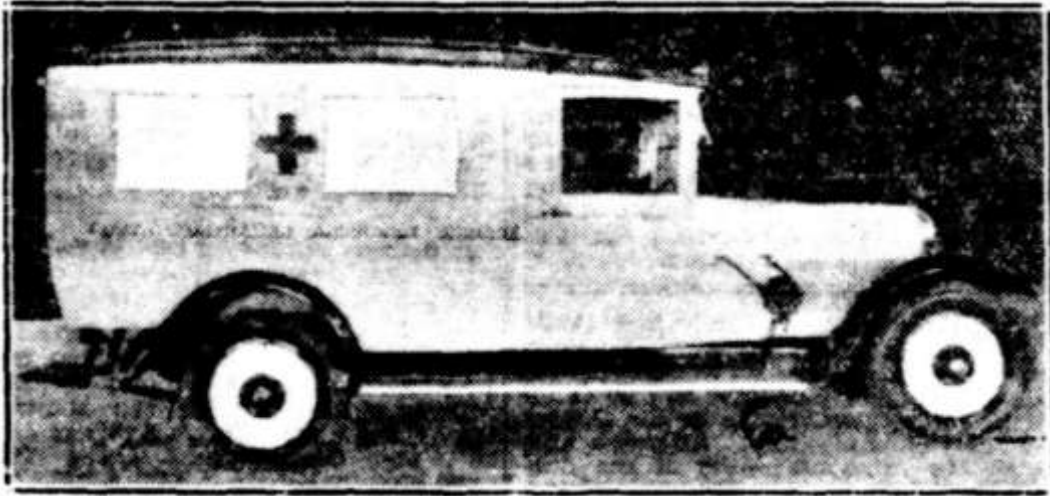
NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire Alarm For Croydon.—Councillor Scott-Todd, who again asked that a fire alarm be provided for Croydon, was advised by the Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. Wood) last night to interview the superintendent of the local volunteer fire brigade (Mr. G. J. Plenty) on the subject.

New Ambulance For Infectious Cases

The Hindmarsh Ambulance Brigade will receive today a new ambulance built on the most modern lines specially to convey patients suffering from an infectious disease to the Northfield Hospital. The Hindmarsh Ambulance, which handles a large proportion of these cases, found it necessary to have such a vehicle to allow for complete fumigation after each case, and to release other vehicles of the fleet for accidents and non-infectious cases. This will be the brigade's second ambulance for infectious work. When another ambulance is received within a few weeks to replace the vehicle smashed in an accident on North terrace a few months ago, the brigade will have six modern vehicles, which have been provided largely by voluntary subscriptions. It was explained yesterday regarding the new ambulance that immediately a case is delivered to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, the driver and attendant in the course of a few seconds make the car airtight. They place everything they

have handled, including their white overcoats, in the car, set off a fumigating charge, and as they drive back to the depot the process of fumigation proceeds.



THIS LATEST addition to the fleet of ambulances belonging to the South Australian Ambulance Brigade will be used specially for the conveyance of infectious diseases cases.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 19 October 1933, page 16

Fire In Hindmarsh Shop

A fire broke out under the counter of a drapery store kept by Miss Bradshaw, at Port road, Hindmarsh, at 6 p.m. yesterday. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was summoned. The damage was only slight. A report is being prepared for the coroner by the Hindmarsh police.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 23 December 1933, page 10

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade Party

Forty children of members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade had a happy time at the fire station on Thursday night, when they were given a Christmas party by the Fire-men's Recreation Club. There was a big Christmas tree hung with toys and colored lights, and Father Christmas (Captain T. H. Lonnen) came down a chimney.

1934

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 6 January 1915, page 4

FIRE AT HINDMARSH

A destructive fire occurred at the premises occupied by Mr. W. Collin Brand, draper, Port-road, Hindmarsh, on Tuesday night, shortly before 11 o'clock, practically every article of stock being destroyed. Mr. J. L. Roberts, photographer, whose shop is close to Mr. Brand's establishment, said he and Mr. A. Moyes were talking in front of his shop when he noticed Mr. Brand, who usually kept the window-lights burning in the evening, return to the shop shortly after 10.30, and extinguish the lights. About ten minutes after Mr. Brand's departure they saw a bright glare in the portion of the shop next to Mr. Standish's grocery store. The shop was in flames. Mr. Moyes ran to the plantation fire alarm, about 100 yards away, while Mr. Roberts warned the neighbors on either side of the burning premises. The Hindmarsh

Volunteer Fire Brigade, under Superintendent G. J. Plenty, quickly responded to a call, and the damage was confined to Mr. Brand's establishment.

Mr. Brand, who is an enthusiastic fireman, and secretary of the local brigade, had not reached home after leaving the shop, when he heard the gasworks hooter sound the alarm, and hurried, as usual, to the fire station, and drove the motor to the fire. He was greatly surprised on arrival at the scene. The fire is said to have started in the rear of the building. The stock and fittings were insured in the Yorkshire Insurance Company for £705, and the premises, which are owned by Mrs. Manuel, of Kadina, are covered by insurance in the Liverpool, London, and Globe Insurance Company for £600.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 7 January 1915, page 7

OUTBREAK IN HINDMARSH.

As the result of a fire which broke out shortly before 11 o'clock on Tuesday night at a draper's shop occupied by Wilfred C. Brand, in Port road, Hindmarsh, the stock was considerably damaged. Constable Amey ascertained that Mr. Brand left the shop at 6 o'clock on Tuesday evening, when the gas lights were burning. About 10.40 p.m. he returned to the shop and put out the lights. As he was leaving the premises he struck a match to find a padlock. Everything at that time appeared all right, and there was a sign of fire. The alarm was given by Mr. James Roberts. The contents were insured for £705 in the Yorkshire Insurance Company, Grenfell street, and the building, which was only slightly affected by the fire, was covered to the extent of £600 in the Liverpool, London, and Globe Insurance Company.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 15 January 1934, page 3

EARLY MORNING FIRE AT HINDMARSH

Man Climbs on to Balcony Next Door When a fire broke out in premises on the Port road at 1.50 a.m. today, the occupier, Mr. Francis Graham, climbed over a balcony on to that of the building next door and escaped down the staircase. Constable Habel, of Hindmarsh, who was on patrol duty, discovered the fire. He summoned the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade, which found one room alight and the adjacent shop full of smoke. The fire was soon extinguished. It is believed to have started under a staircase, but the cause is unknown. Damage estimated at nearly £50 was done to the stair-case, shelves, doors, and floor. The loss was covered by insurance.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 16 January 1934, page 9

Family Asleep Above Burning Shop

Damage estimated at about £100 was done to Graham's ham shop, on Port road, Hindmarsh, by a fire outbreak, which was discovered at 1.50 a.m. yesterday by Constable Habel, who was on patrol duty. The occupants of the shop were sleeping on a balcony above a blazing back room when they were awakened by the constable. The fire was extinguished by the Hindmarsh volunteer brigade. The back room, where the fire originated was gutted, and a stairway, office fittings, and several other rooms were damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 12 March 1934, page 17

Fire Destroys Bedding And Clothing

A fire destroyed some bedding and clothing in the home of Mr. Sydney Charles Leunig, of Port road, Brompton, during the absence of the family on Saturday evening. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade, which was called at 8.55 p.m., extinguished the fire. A report for the Coroner is being prepared by Plainclothes Constable O'Sullivan. Yesterday the Hindmarsh police questioned a young man, who is alleged to have visited the house frequently.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 13 March 1934, page 10

NEWS IN BRIEF

Volunteer Fireman For 25 Years

The Hindmarsh Council resolved last night to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. P. G. Hocking, who had been a member of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade for 25 years. Mr. Hocking recently retired from the brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 20 March 1934, page 5

HOW FIRE STARTED IN BROMPTON HOUSE

Evidence That Man Entered Before Outbreak

EMPTY KEROSENE BOTTLE FOUND

Evidence that a fire had been lit on a bed in a house in Brompton on the night of March 10, and that a man had been seen to enter the house just previously, was given at a coroner's enquiry today.

The City Coroner (Mr. A. S. Blackburn) was enquiring into the cause of a fire which started in a house in Port road, Brompton, the property of Helena Hillman Sando. Mr. M. H. Besanko, of the Crown Law Office, appeared for the Commissioner of Police, and Mr. K. V. McEntee represented John Trottman, of West terrace, Adelaide.

Sydney Charles Leunig, formerly of Port road, Brompton, said that he left his home about 7.15 p.m. to go to the pictures with his wife and two children. As the night was hot he took his wife's hat home, and then went to a friend's place in Bowden. He stayed there until 9.45. On his way home he met another friend, who told him that a fire had broken out in his house. Leunig said that the back door, although closed, was not locked. He had known a man named John Trottman for more than 25 years. Their relationship was not friendly. He had not seen Trottman for two years before the night of the fire.

"Hope They Don't Meet"

Gladys May Leunig said that after her husband had taken her hat home she met a man named Salkeld, and he told her that "Johnnie" Trottman had just gone down the street. Mrs. Leunig said: "I hope he doesn't meet Syd., because if he does there will be a fight" In answer to Mr. Blackburn Mrs. Leunig said that she had never been on friendly terms with Trottman, and that once he swore at her and threatened to "do for her." Mrs. Leunig said that on the following day she noticed that a kerosene bottle usually kept in the cupboard of the kitchen was empty. When she last saw the bottle it was half-full. On March 8 she laid a charge against Trottman of having been unlawfully on her premises. He was convicted without a penalty. On March 7, Mrs. Leunig said, there was a fire on her premises, and her husband's new clothes were burnt.

Maria Taylor Daly, married, of Monmouth street, Croydon, said that about 8.45 o'clock on the night of March 10 she was walking along Port road when she saw smoke issuing from a house. She went across to the front window, which was open about six inches, and looked inside. She saw what appeared to be a heap of paper and rag on a bed. It was burning, and appeared to have been lit about five or 10 minutes before she looked through the window. There was also a woman's hat on the heap. Mrs. Daly said that she neither saw nor heard anyone, although she called out twice.

Hubert Hillman Sando, auctioneer, of Glenelg, said that the house was the property of his mother, and was insured for £200.

Patrick James Durham, fingerprint expert, of Adelaide, said that he inspected the house the following day for fingerprints, but found nothing of any value. He examined the bottle, but it was too dirty for prints to be traced.

Story of Man's Entry

Edgar Stanley Smith, an officer of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade, said that on arrival of two reels at the house the firemen forced the front door. The house was full of smoke, and flames were coming from a bed in a front room. The bedclothes had been practically destroyed, and the bed was partly damaged.

William James Clark, boilermaker's assistant, of Southwark, and Edward Uren Allen, laborer, of Bowden, who were on the corner of Chief street and Port road, Brompton, on the night of the fire, gave evidence of having seen a man pass them and turn into a house without a verandah. He appeared to be the worse for liquor. Clark told the coroner that the man said as he passed, "If that fellow up the road is out of doors there will be a bit of fun."

Constable O'Sullivan and Detective Bourke interviewed Trottman at his home in West terrace, Adelaide, on the morning after the fire. Asked where he had been the previous night, Trottman replied, "At a wedding." When he was told that he had been seen to enter Leunig's house, he said, "It is a lie." Trottman was committed for trial at the next Criminal Sessions for having feloniously, wilfully, and maliciously set fire to the house. Bail was allowed in Trottman's own surety of £100, and two sureties approved by the police of £100 each. Mr. Besanko opposed the granting of bail. Trottman reserved his defence.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 31 March 1934, page 12

Hindmarsh Firemen's Dinner

Members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Firemen's Recreation Club entertained the Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. McInnes, M.P.), Parliamentary members of the district, members of the Hindmarsh Corporation, the chief officer (Mr. G. J. Plenty), the secretary (Mr. G. Plenty, jun.), and officers at the annual dinner held at the Hindmarsh head station yesterday. The chairman (Mr. C. Hocking) presided. The toast of members of Parliament was proposed by Lieut. Smith, and Mr. Blackwell, M.P., responded. Mr. S. C. Hocking (deputy chief) proposed the toast of the mayor and councillors. The mayor, in reply, praised the work of the brigade, and "Kindred Brigades" was proposed by Captain T. H. Lonnen, and replied to by Superintendent R. Phelps, of the Kilkenny and Woodville Volunteer Fire Brigade. "Old Firemen" was submitted by station officer Battersby, and ambulance officer W. Fraser responded. "The Firemen's Recreation Club" was proposed by Mr. A. Curtis, and the chairman replied. Entertainment was provided by Messrs. W. Rowett, W. Munchenbeng,

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

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11 December 2024

and R. Cheeseman. There were 10 pairs in the annual bowls tournament held on the Hindmarsh Bowling Club's grounds. The result was as follows:— C. Fulton and R. Fabian. 36; L. Plenty and A. Harley, 31; A. Stone and R. Wood, 30: and A. McLennan and G. Stone, 30, tied for third place.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 5 May 1934, page 1

MAN WITH WINE AT FIRE

Police Arrest Him

Following a fire in a chaffmill in Torrens road, Brompton, this afternoon the Hindmarsh police arrested a man for having been on the premises without lawful excuse. He will appear in the Hindmarsh Police Court probably on Monday. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade extinguished a burning chaffbag. The police allege that there were two men on the premises shortly after the outbreak with wine in their possession.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 24 August 1934, page 26

Fire At Brick Works

Heat from a flue leading from a lighted brick kiln ignited about five tons of firewood at the Co-operative Brick Company's works, Torrens road, Devon Park, last night. Two reels from the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade under Deputy-Chief Officer Hocking and Lieut. Smith, turned out, and the fire was quickly got under control.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 6 November 1934, page 7

Starch Kiln On Fire

A starch kiln fed by coke, at the factory of Messrs. W. H. Burford & Sons, Ltd, Hindmarsh, caught fire on Sunday morning. Smoke was seen issuing from the roof by an employee, Albert Stone, about 10.20 a.m. and he informed the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, which extinguished the blaze. The extent of the damage is unknown. A report is being prepared for the Coroner by Plainclothes Constable O'Sullivan, of Hindmarsh.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 23 November 1934, page 22

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

At a special parade of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade tomorrow afternoon his Excellency the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) will present each member with a medal which has been struck to commemorate the jubilee of the brigade. Mr. J. Duncan, formerly chief officer for 28 years, and the only surviving member of the original brigade, will also be decorated with a medal. The present Chief Officer is Mr. G. J. Plenty. Realising the danger to which the industrial districts of Hindmarsh and Thebarton were exposed in the event of fire, eight residents met at the Hindmarsh town hall on November 26, 1884, and decided to form the brigade, and Hindmarsh has been adequately protected from fire since by men who have given their services. New plant has been bought, the present plant maintained, and buildings erected from donations. Since 1919, £35,877 worth of property in the town has been damaged by fire, but in that time £295,649 worth of property which was endangered has been saved.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 27 November 1934, page 14

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Work Praised At Jubilee Social

Nearly 100 former and present members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade and prominent residents attended a smoke social in the local town hall last night to celebrate the jubilee of the foundation of the brigade. The work of the brigade was highly praised by visitors. The Mayor (Mr. McInnes, M.P.) presided, and with him at the top table was Chief Officer G. J. Plenty, Deputy Chief Officer S. Hocking, former Chief Officer J. Duncan. Lieutenant E. S. Smith, Station Officer A. J. Battersby, Foreman P. Miller, Ambulance Officer E. S. Stroud, the surgeon. Dr. D. R. Wallman and the secretary, Mr. G. Plenty, jun. In addition to members of the town council there were present representatives of the Woodville Volunteer Fire Brigade, under Superintendent R. Philips, and of the Victor Harbour Volunteer Fire Brigade, under Superintendent G. Solly.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 21 December 1934, page 28

Fire Brigade Entertained

The Chief Officer of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade (Mr. G. J. Plenty) entertained members of the brigade at a smoke social at the Hindmarsh town hall on Wednesday evening. Members of the brigade presented the chief officer with a pipe. Items were given by Ambulance Officer Stroud, Instructors T. Lonnen and W. Lonnen, Messrs. E. Emslie and R. Lewis. Mr. Don Stroud was accompanist.

1935

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 25 June 1935, page 18

LONG SERVICE AWARDS FOR HINDMARSH FIREMEN

At a special parade of the Hind-marsh Volunteer Fire Brigade at the fire station at 8.45 p.m. on Thursday, his Excellency the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) will present long service bars to medals awarded by the National Fire Brigades Association, London. The members of the brigade to whom the bars have been awarded are:— Chief Officer G. J. Plenty (35 years). Deputy Chief Officer S. Hocking (40 years). Lieutenant E. Smith (30 years), Station Officer A. Battersby (25 years), Foreman P. Miller (25 years), Fireman E. Pearce (25 years), Fireman A. Stone (25 years), Fireman C. Hocking (15 years), Fireman A. McLellan (15 years).

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 1 November 1935, page 21

Small Fire At Hindmarsh

Damage to the extent of about £5 to curtains and clothing occurred when a fire broke out at Mrs. J. F. M. Watson's house, 21 Manton street, Hindmarsh, yesterday morning. A report has been prepared for the Coroner by Detective Bourke and Constable O'Sullivan.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 6 November 1935, page 3

PREMISES "SET ALIGHT"

Finding at Hindmarsh Fire Inquiry

'SAW UNKNOWN MAN'

FINDING that the premises were feloniously set alight by some person at present unknown was returned by the Acting Coroner (Mr. W. F. J. McCann) at an inquiry today into the circumstances of a fire in the house occupied by Mrs. Jessie F. M. Watson at Manton street, Hindmarsh, early in the morning of October 31. Mrs. Watson said that a fire in the wood stove in the kitchen was allowed to go out about 6.30 p.m. on the day before the outbreak. Witness went out that night. She last saw the back part of the house about 8 p.m. The kitchen fire was out then. In the night witness heard a banging sound as though something had fallen. About 4.15 a.m. her young son Cyril called out, and witness found that there was smoke in the boy's room.

TIMBER ALIGHT

In the lobby she found that the timber of the doorway leading outside was alight. Bagging curtains had been burnt, and bedding, sacking, and some clothes were alight. They were all separate fires. The curtains of the kitchen window had also been burnt, and she saw that a fire had been started in a corner of that room. About £5 worth of damage was done to clothes and furniture. Nobody had ever threatened to set fire to her house. Mrs. Watson continued. On the Tuesday, about 11 p.m., she saw an unknown man at the back of the house, who ran away when witness appeared. The next morning—October 30—she found the kitchen window open. Frederick Arthur Schultz, a neighbor, who extinguished the fire, gave evidence. Constable S. I. Smith, of Hindmarsh, expressed the opinion that several fires had been lit in the lobby and the kitchen. Constable T. O'Sullivan, of Hindmarsh, gave similar evidence.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 21 December 1935, page 20

SPECTACULAR FIRE IN HINDMARSH STORE

Damage Estimated At £2,000

The arrival of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade prevented a fire from spreading into the front shops and the two-storey building of R. C. Worthley, Ltd., Port Road, Hindmarsh, yesterday afternoon. Several wood and iron buildings adjoining the main building and containing linoleums, carpets, wallpaper, tools, and paint were destroyed, and the damage to stock and plant was estimated at £2,000. By preventing the fire from spreading to the main building, the firemen saved about £4,000 worth of stock and a building worth £3,000. The firemen were compelled to wear respirators in the dense smoke caused by burning linoleums and oils. The fire is thought to have been started by a spark escaping from a masonry incinerator in the yard, where papers were being burnt. It caught some high grass, and ran along to a pile of brush fencing near the paint store. Two reels and 20 men from the Hind-marsh Fire Brigade, which is situated about a quarter of a mile away arrived within a minute and a half of receiving a telephone call. When the firemen arrived the flames were leaping 30 ft. high, and had a strong hold on the linoleum store and the wallpaper and tool rooms, and were bursting through the ceiling into the hardware shop, a fire hose was taken through the shop, and efforts were concentrated on saving the main building. Another line of hose was run out from a water main in West street into the linoleum store. The buildings and stock were covered by insurance. Constable O'Sullivan, of Hindmarsh, is preparing a report for the City Coroner (Mr. Blackburn).

1936

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 11 April 1936, page 9

CO-OPERATION AMONG FIRE BRIGADES

Chief-Officer Whyte Welcomed At Hindmarsh

Speakers at the annual dinner of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Firemen's Recreation Club, held at the head, station, Hindmarsh, yesterday, declared that any friction that existed between the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and the volunteer brigades had now passed, and an assurance was given by Chief Officer Whyte, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and officers of volunteer brigades that they would work for the good of the community. In extending a welcome to the visitors. Chief Officer Plenty, who presided, said that the brigade was pleased to have with them Chief Officer Whyte, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. His visit was an indication that he would stimulate the good feeling that existed between the two brigades. He would do a great deal for South Australia in fire brigade work, and he wished him success in his new position. "I can assure you that the days of petty jealousies between fire-fighters is past," said Chief Officer Whyte. The appalling loss of life and property from fires throughout the world, he said, was fully appreciated by fire fighting authorities in Great Britain, who were now co-operating in the installation of uniform fire-fighting apparatus. People had begun to realise that fire-fighting was becoming a science.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 30 September 1936, page 7

SHED ABLAZE AT HINDMARSH

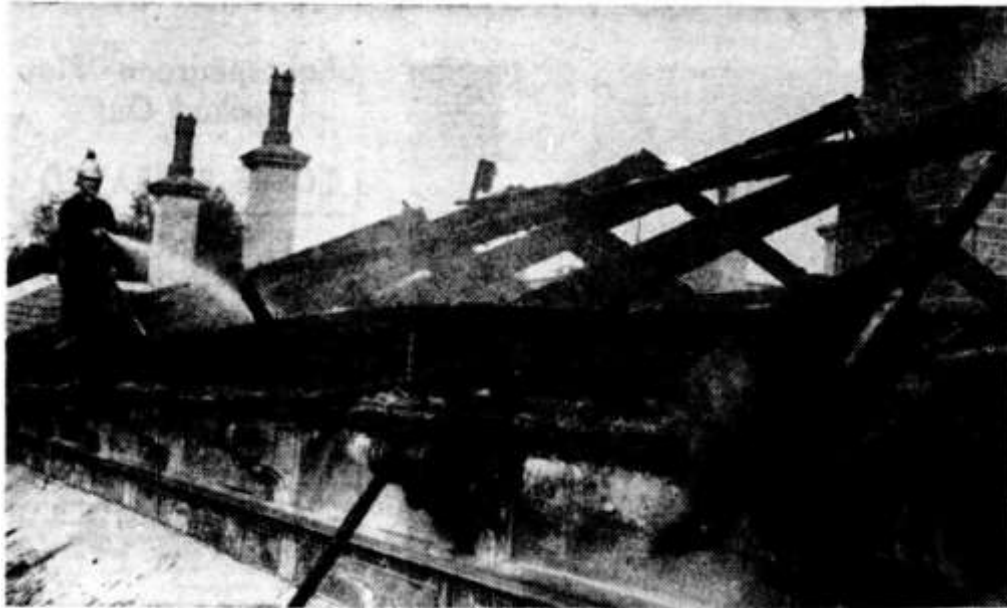
Children Suspected

Children playing with matches are believed to have been responsible for a fire which destroyed a shed and its contents of furniture, bedding, pictures, books, and oil paintings at Hindmarsh early this afternoon. The fire occurred at the rear of premises occupied by Mr. F. Edwards, jeweller, of Port road, Hindmarsh, and owned by Mr. G. I. Cheers. The shed, measuring 28 ft. by 12 ft., was of wood and iron, and was insured. Its contents, which were owned by three people, were destroyed. The contents were not insured, and value has not been ascertained. Fifteen members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, in the charge of Mr. G. J. Plenty, attended the blaze, but it was so fierce and had secured such a hold that little could be done. Plainclothes Constable T. Sullivan, of Hindmarsh, made inquiries.

[1937](#)

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 20 February 1937, page 5

FIGHTING FIRE AT NORTH ADELAIDE



A FIREMAN PLAYING WATER on the burnt roof of Dr. J. A. Bonnin's home at Mills terrace, North Adelaide, yesterday afternoon, when fire destroyed four rooms. A painter's blow torch set wooden roof beams alight and this caused the blaze.

FIRE OUTSIDE ITS DISTRICT

Hindmarsh Brigade Could Not Attend

DOCTOR CRITICAL

DR. J. A. Bonnin, whose home at North Adelaide suffered heavy damage in a fire yesterday afternoon, considers that the circumstances were more than usually unfortunate. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was called, but could not attend as the fire was out of its district, and the appliances which attended from metropolitan headquarters were severely handicapped by a poor water pressure. Dr. Bonnin said a request to the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade, which he and his neighbors had supported for nearly 20 years, had been met with a polite refusal. "We dare not come into the metropolitan area," the Hindmarsh officials said, according to the next door neighbor, who rang them. It so happened that no delay in calling a brigade occurred, as Mrs. Bonnin had put a call through to city head-quarters, simultaneously with the call to Hindmarsh, from her own home before the telephone wires burnt through. But the doctor, who lost valuable books and paintings in the fire, was critical today regarding the red tape which prevented a fire brigade situated less than five minutes away from his home accepting a call "because it was not in its district."

FIRE CHIEF'S EXPLANATION

The Chief Fire Officer (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said today that the Hindmarsh Brigade acted quite rightly. If that brigade had attended the fire he would have sent it back. Although he appreciated the work the brigade had done from time to time. it could not have helped yesterday. The practice of a brigade not going outside its district was a good one. Mr. Whyte said that most suburbs had a poor water supply on very hot days. This was due to the extra water used for watering gardens and for domestic purposes. The suburban mains were usually of from three to six inches, and a three inch main was useless for firefighting. At

North Adelaide yesterday his appliances were working on three, four, and five inch mains, and still were not getting the necessary water.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 6 March 1937, page 15

Grass Fire at Bowden

Responding to a call to Eighth street, Bowden, this afternoon, the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade quickly extinguished a fire in grass and rubbish on the property of Mr. R. C. Howard. No damage was done. Two appliances, which attended, were in charge of Deputy Chief Officer Hocking

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 19 August 1937, page 12

Hindmarsh Brigade's Equipment

Members of the Hindmarsh Council showed keen interest in the equipment of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade during their annual inspection of the brigade's premises and plant last night. The visitors were entertained after the inspection by the brigade committee, of which Chief-Officer G. J. Plenty is chairman. The councillors expressed satisfaction at the manner in which Hindmarsh and surrounding suburbs were protected from fire.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 9 September 1937, page 8

Small Fire at Hindmarsh

A small quantity of cut wood on the premises of Barrey's Brickyards Ltd., Torrens avenue, New Hindmarsh, was destroyed by fire about 4 a.m. today. Hindmarsh and Thebarton brigades answered the call.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 27 November 1937, page 25

House Damaged By Fire At Hindmarsh

The enclosed back verandah attached to a house occupied by Mr. Fred Curtis, at Bacon street, Hindmarsh, was destroyed by fire at 12.35 p.m. yesterday. The contents of a kitchen, laundry, and a sleepout were destroyed. The articles included two bicycles, kitchen utensils, bed clothes, other soiled clothes in the laundry, and the wood and iron portion of the building. The damage was estimated at £150. None of the occupants was home at the time.

Two fire outfits from the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade under the control of Deputy Chief Officer S. Hocking, Lieutenant Smith, and 10 firemen quickly had the blaze under control. A report to the coroner is being made by Constable Shannon, of Hindmarsh.

Small Fires At Hindmarsh And Woodville

Due to the heat yesterday grass and other small fires were prevalent in the suburbs. The Woodville Fire Brigade received calls to extinguish grass fires in a back yard at Russell Terrace, Woodville Park, and in a plantation near Botting street, Albert Park, where about an acre of grass was burnt. No other damage was done in either case. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to a grass fire on an allotment in George street, Hindmarsh, where no damage occurred. A fire also broke out among packing cases at the motor works of

Maughan Thiem, Ltd., at Orsmond street, Hindmarsh. The damage was confined to the cases.

1938

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 16 May 1938, page 7

HINDMARSH FIRE

Fire caused damage to the extent of £20 early this morning, in a house occupied by Mr. Leslie Williams, of Pickering street, Brompton. The outbreak, which occurred at 1.40. was extinguished by the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 2 August 1938, page 4

40 Years in Volunteer Brigade

HINDMARSH'S FIRE CHIEF

HAVING joined the brigade when its equipment consisted of a hand-drawn reel and a horse appliance, Chief-Officer G. J. Plenty completes 40 years of service with the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade today. The brigade is the only volunteer fighting unit left in the metropolitan area, and in its 53 years of service has saved thousands of pounds' worth of property in the Hindmarsh district. The town council has found the volunteer system economical, as the fire protection cost is represented by an annual grant of £65, compared with moieties of several hundred pounds a year in other districts. A blast on the siren at the gasworks at Brompton, and on the siren at a house at West Hindmarsh, sends the volunteers post haste to the fire station. A duty roster is followed at week-ends and on holidays.

Station Well Equipped

The men work along the lines of a full-time station, having electric alarms and a signal indicator board. Equipment includes smoke helmets and respirators. A powerful Dennis pump was purchased for the station by the under-writers, and the Hindmarsh Council in 1924 at a cost of £1,500. There are also two motor reels at the station, which has as its headquarters one of Hindmarsh's most historic buildings at Lindsay Circus. When Mr. Plenty joined the brigade on August 3, 1898, Mr. John Reid, a well-known tannery proprietor, was chief. He was succeeded in 1900 by Mr. J. Duncan. Mr. Plenty is the third chief, having taken charge in 1913. Mr. Plenty, who is a native of Hind-



MR. G. J. PLENTY

marsh, was 23 when he first donned the uniform, and he has found his hobby both exciting and interesting.

Ambulance Work

He also gives civic service as chief of the S.A. Ambulance Transport, which he helped to establish in 1921. In the first year 499 calls were answered; In the year ended on Sunday about 5,200 cases were handled. The Hindmarsh firemen are also members of the ambulance staff. Although the duties are exacting, most men have had long service. The length of service of the deputy chief. Mr. S. C. Hocking, exceeds that of the chief by three years. Lieut. E. S. Smith and Station Officer A. J. Bat-tersby have 30 years of service behind them, and Foreman P. Miller has 25 years' service. Most of the 36 firemen have their long-service medals for 20 years' fire-fighting work.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 17 October 1938, page 20

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade 54 Years Old

More than 100 past and present members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade attended a reunion smoke social at the station on Saturday night. The brigade was established 54 years ago. The social was one of the Hindmarsh centenary celebrations. Chief Officer G. J. Plenty presided. Former Superintendent J. M. Duncan, who served more than 40 years with the brigade, was the only original member present.

1939



State Library of South Australia - Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh [B 40282], Volunteer Fire Brigade Officers. Approximately 1939. Part of Hindmarsh Collection.



State Library of South Australia - Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh [B 40283], Volunteer Fire Brigade Officers. Approximately 1939. Part of Hindmarsh Collection.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 30 September 1939, page 22

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received a call at 12.45 p.m. yesterday to the premises of John Edward Clavell, upholsterer, Gibson street, Bowden. Horsehair, fibre and flock were destroyed. The flames were prevented from spreading to other portions of the shop, and a dwelling which it adjoins. It is thought that the fire was started by children playing with matches.

1940

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 13 January 1940, page 20

Fire Brigade Called To Blazing Motor Cycle

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was called out tonight to extinguish a blazing motor cycle in East street, Brompton. The machine, which belongs to Thomas Howard, of Eton street, Malvern, backfired and then burst into flames. It was badly damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 6 March 1940, page 23

Fire In Wool Drying Plant

A fire which broke out in one of the wool-drying machines at G. H. Michell and Sons, Ltd., works at Adam street, Hindmarsh, caused damage to the ex-tent of about £300 yesterday afternoon. The machine, wool, and some sheets of roofing iron in the brick building in which it was housed were damaged. Employes at the works attacked the fire with chemical extinguishers, but the blaze was too fierce for these to be effective. They then used water hoses, but were hampered through lack of water pressure.

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade answered the call quickly, and with 15 men and two appliances, in charge of Chief-Officer G. J. Plenty, sen., soon had the fire under control, despite the poor water pressure, and prevented it from spreading to nearby plant and large stocks of wool. The origin of the fire is not known. Constables Shannon and Pengilley, of Hindmarsh, are preparing a report for the coroner.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 8 March 1940, page 6

SECOND FIRE THIS WEEK BRINGS DAMAGE TO £400

G. H. Michell & Sons Ltd., wool merchants, of Adams street, Hindmarsh, had their second fire in a week when wool in a rolling machine caught alight today. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade soon had the fire under control, but not before damage amounting to about £100 was caused. Today's fire brought the total loss for the week to £400.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 23 March 1940, page 17

Hindmarsh Firemen's Dinner

The spirit of co-operation existing between the South Australian Fire Brigade and the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was referred to by Chief Officer G. J. Plenty and Chief Officer J. J. Whyte at the annual dinner of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Firemen's Recreation Club held at the Hindmarsh fire station yesterday. Chief Officer Plenty presided. Among the visitors were Mr. McInnes, M.P., Mr. Oates, M.L.C., and Mr. J. Duncan, former chief officer and a member of the brigade when it was formed more than 50 years ago. Chief Officer Whyte said that the committee which had investigated the taking over of the Hindmarsh brigade and the insurance companies were satisfied that the Hindmarsh Brigade was doing its job properly, and apparently the time had not arrived for it to be absorbed into the permanent fire service. The records showed that the brigade had done splendid work in fire-fighting. Chief Officer Plenty presented a cup to Fireman R. Wood (winner), and a medal to Fireman F. Webb (runner up) for the firemen's drill contest, and Fireman A. Lewis received a medal for 10 years' service. A musical programme was provided by Messrs. E. McAlister, W. Rowett, A. McKee. B. von Einem. A. E. Hignett. and Bert Martin.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 27 March 1940, page 19

Water Pressure At Hindmarsh

The Hindmarsh Council has referred to the Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. McIntosh) a complaint by G.H. Michell & Sons that there was a poor water supply at the recent fire at the company's premises at Adam street. Hindmarsh. The council has drawn attention to the serious consequences of a large fire. The factories in the locality, it states, employ between 500 and 600 men, mostly in the manufacture of material for war purposes.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 28 March 1940, page 7

Three Fires In 15 Minutes: Adjacent Homes

MEMBERS of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade spent a hectic quarter of an hour today extinguishing fires in three adjoining back yards at Brompton. Receiving a call at 1.30 p.m. to the home of Mr. A. E. Hendry, of Waddam street, the firefighters found that a grass fire in a vacant allotment had set alight to the fence and rear part of the house. No sooner had they put this fire out than a spectator drew their attention to a fire in the back yard of the house next door. A heap of rubbish, blazing merrily, had set alight to a shed. With this fire out, the men were pre-paring to return to headquarters when they noted that rubbish in the yard of the house next door was burning. Chief Fire Officer G. J. Plenty said that in 40 years' experience he could not recall anything to equal the experience.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 29 March 1940, page 12

Fires In Three Adjoining Houses

The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade received calls to three fires in adjoining back yards at Brompton within a quarter of an hour yesterday afternoon. The first call was at 1.38 p.m. to the home of Mr. A. E. Hendry, at Wadham street, Brompton, where a lean-to shed stored with rubbish and two tins of petrol was on fire. This fire having been promptly extinguished, another was noticed in the next back yard, occupied by a Mr. Forrester. Here a heap of rubbish and garden tools stacked against the house was on fire. A shed and an adjoining fence were damaged. When this fire had been put out, an old wooden sofa and boxes in the next yard were seen to be alight. This building was occupied by a Mr. Freer. No one was at home at the two latter places. Chief-Officer G. J. Plenty, who attended with 15 men and three appliances, said that he could not remember a similar instance in his 40 years' experience. Each of the fires had been started separately, apparently by sparks from a fire in an adjoining pughole.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 26 September 1940, page 12

Governor Visits Volunteer Firemen

His Excellency the Governor (Sir Malcolm Barclay-Harvey), who was accompanied by the senior vice-president of the S.A. Ambulance Brigade (Brigadier-General S. Price Weir) visited the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Station last night. He was received by Chief Officer G. J. Plenty, sen. The Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr W H Straton) was present. The Governor inspected a parade of volunteer firemen members of the S.A. Ambulance, first-aid post, and the Hindmarsh emergency fire service. After leaving Hindmarsh the Governor inspected a

parade of members of the emergency division of the S.A Ambulance. A.R.P and the Unley division of the S.A. Ambulance at Unley.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 10 October 1940, page 10

A.R.P. Demonstration At Hindmarsh

An air raids precautions rehearsal for the black-out in the western suburbs on October 31 was held at Hindmarsh last night. The exercises were carried out under the control of the Mayor (Mr. W. H. Stratton), who is chief warden, assisted by the town clerk (Mr. R. W. Langman), who is deputy chief warden.

About 120 men were engaged at various posts. They were required to deal with several fires, demolition of damaged buildings, decontamination precautions for gas, and to deal with smashed gas, water, and electric light mains. "Casualties" were picked up by ambulance men and brought to a dressing station at the Hindmarsh Town Hall, where women of the V.S.D. attended to their injuries under the supervision of doctors.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 21 December 1940, page 5

FIREMEN'S GUARD

THE Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, of which the bride groom is a member, will form guard of honor for the wedding tonight of Miss Fay Coles and Mr. Donald Stroud in the Southwark Baptist Church. The Revs S. Bowering and H. A. de la Rue will officiate. The bride, who will be given away by her brother (Mr G Coles), is the second daughter of Mrs L. M. Coles, New Mile-End and of the late Mr. Coles. The bridegroom is the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Stroud, Southwark. Ivory figured satin forms the wedding gown, which has the skirt merging into a long, round train. The bodice is finished with moon-shaped shirring and has a heart-shaped neckline.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 23 December 1940, page 12

Christmas Weddings in Adelaide

MR. DONALD STROUD, a member of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and his bride (she was Miss Fay Coles) passing under an archway of axes formed by a guard of honour of the bride-groom's comrades, outside Southwark Baptist Church. A false alarm called the guard of honour away just after this picture was taken. The prank misfired, however, as the men still had time to get round to Hindmarsh Place Christian Church and form up again for another comrade, who was married that night. (See below).

THE SECOND MEMBER of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade to be married on Saturday night was Mr. Jack Phillips. His bride was Miss Viola Beryl Margitich. It was the first time two members of the brigade had been married on the same night.

1941

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 16 April 1941, page 5

Brigade Quells Fire In Brompton Sitting Room

A fire, which is believed to have been caused by a three-year-old child playing with matches, occurred this afternoon in the sitting room of a house in West street, Brompton. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was called to the scene, and firemen under the

supervision of Chief Officer Plenty restricted the damage to a settee, linoleum, and bedding, the property of Ernest Leo Suck, laborer, the occupier of the dwelling. The damage amounted to about £11. Constable Northcott, of Hindmarsh, is preparing a report on the outbreak.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 29 April 1941, page 11

A.R.P. Demonstration At Hindmarsh

Hindmarsh held A.R.P. exercises under war conditions last night, when factory whistles and sirens in the district sounded an air raid warning about 7.45 p.m. The Mayor (Mr. W. H. Stratton) arranged the exercises, which were a complete surprise to councillors and residents in the district. Members of the Hindmarsh Corporation were playing bowls at the Croydon bowling green at the time, and those in the team who are A.R.P. wardens rushed to their allotted posts to cope with the resultant damage. Four "incendiary bombs" were dropped in the district and the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was called out to deal with a number of fires. Six persons were supposed to be badly wounded, and first-aid men were sent out by Dr. D. R. Wallman to collect the casualties, which were brought to the casualty clearing station at the Town Hall, where they were attended by Dr. C. F. Drew and members of the local V.S.D. At 9.15 p.m. the last casualty was brought in, and the all clear was sounded.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 17 May 1941, page 19

Hindmarsh Tannery Fire Confined to Workshop

Prompt action by the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade saved more serious damage when a fire broke out at the tannery of John Reid & Sons. Ltd., Hindmarsh. this afternoon Under the charge of Deputy Chief Officer Smith, two appliances confined the outbreak to the workshop on the west side of the main building. The cause of the fire and the amount of damage are not yet known.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 22 May 1941, page 4

Death of Mr. James Duncan

Last of the foundation members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade (Mr. James Duncan), 86, of Glanton street, West Hindmarsh, died today. He will be buried tomorrow with full brigade honors. The coffin will be borne on a fire-pump from his home to North Road Cemetery. Mr. Duncan joined the brigade when it was formed in 1884, and was chief officer from 1900 to 1912. He resigned in 1912. and was succeeded by Mr. G. J. Plenty, who has been chief officer ever since. After his retirement, Mr. Duncan never lost his interest in the brigade, and was rarely absent from its functions.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 17 July 1941, page 10

Fire Hooter Gives False Alarm

A sound at midnight last night which some suburban residents mistook for the foghorn of a ghost ship emanated from the fire hooter at the Brompton gas works. It was a false alarm. The hooter, which in the still night was heard over a wide area of the suburbs, is the only remaining fire alarm of its kind in Adelaide. When a street alarm is broken in the Hindmarsh district it automatically starts the hooter, and notifies the local fire brigade. Until recently, the hooter was wired to give a low blast for an alarm on the southern side of the Port

railway line and a number of short blasts for the northern side. However, because it conflicted with an air raid alarm. It has now been changed to three blasts of one minute each, with an interval of 10 seconds between. The hooter notifies volunteer firemen in the district, who answer the call from their homes or elsewhere. Hind-marsh has the only volunteer fire brigade in Adelaide suburbs.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 19 May 1941, page 14

Fire At Tannery

A fire occurred at the tannery of John Reid & Sons Ltd., Manton street, Hindmarsh, on Saturday afternoon. The Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade confined the blaze to a workshop on the west side of the main building. The fire had spread to an adjoining building, separated by an iron partition, where a large quantity of leather was stored. The leather was not damaged. The building was insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 20 October 1941, page 9

Fire At Brompton Gas Works

Nineteen members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, under Lieut. Battersby, worked for two hours to control a fire which broke out in a pughole containing ashes and tar at the Gas Works, Second street, Brompton, late last night. They prevented the flames from reaching a nearby tar plant and a large heap of coal at the rear of the works. The gasometer in the next street was not endangered.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 15 November 1941, page 11

Brompton Fire ; Bedroom Burnt

When a passer-by saw smoke pouring from the rear of a shop in Third street, Brompton, early tonight he called the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Firemen had to break their way into the shop. They found a bedroom at the rear in flames. Three reels and 28 volunteer firemen attended under Deputy Chief Officer Smith. The flames had gained such a hold in the room that the firemen could do no more than concentrate on saving the rest of the building. The outbreak occurred in premises owned by Mrs. J. Tink. The occupier Mrs. A. Moloney, was away at the time.

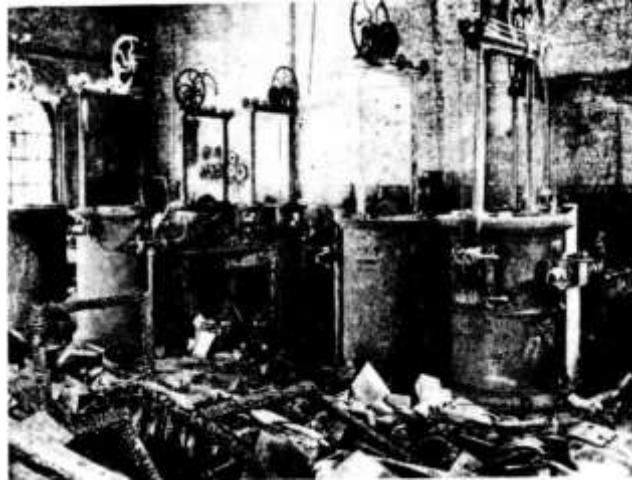
Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 17 November 1941, page 9

Fire At Brompton

Damage estimated at £75 was sustained when a fire broke out in a three-roomed dwelling at Third street, Brompton, on Saturday night. The building was owned by Mrs. J. Tink, of Third street, Brompton, and occupied by Mrs. A. Moloney. The fire was first seen by a pedestrian, and the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade turned out with three reels and 26 men. The brigade confined the blaze to a bedroom, all the contents of which were destroyed. The occupier was absent and firemen had to burst in the front door. Deputy Chief Officer Smith was in charge, and a report is being prepared by the Hindmarsh police.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 28 November 1941, page 3

Damage In Gas Fire



DAMAGE to the meter testing room in last night's fire at the S.A. Gas Co's. plant, Brompton. Much costly machinery was destroyed in this section.

Gas Fire Ordeal: Big Loss

Damage caused by last night's fire at the Brompton gasworks was estimated today at £7,000 to £10,000. It was the biggest fire the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade had been called to for years. The fire raged only 50 yards from a big gas holder. "If that had gone up we would have still been somewhere in the sky." said one of the firemen today. Seven of the 45 men who fought the blaze were taken to hospital and treated for burns and eye injuries caused when an oil drum exploded. One of the volunteer firemen. Joseph Hollow, 41, of Arlington terrace. Welland. was detained at the Royal Adelaide Hospital until today

Firemen Trapped

From his bed in Ophthalmic Ward this morning, he told how he and two of his mates were trapped in a blazing room. "We heard the siren blowing at the gasworks and dashed to the fire station. I drove No 2 reel, and when we got there flames were shooting out of the roof I went into a room with Jim Holmes and Colin Marchant, and we played water on the burning rafters. "We would no sooner get the flames under control than there would be a minor explosion, and they would blaze up again. Suddenly there was a flash and some thing hot trickled over me. I don't remember any more until I came to outside." Chief-Officer G. J. Plenty said today that other firemen noticed Fireman Hollow fall to the floor when a drum of oil exploded. They rushed in and dragged him out. The whole room was ablaze. Another of the trapped men jumped through a window, and the third had to be assisted out. The building, which is of brick, was gutted, and the contents, including valuable machinery used in the making of gas meters and hot-water services. was badly damaged. A number of partly constructed meters and hot-water services were destroyed.

No Interruption

The acting secretary of the company (Mr. A. J. Dobson) said today that there would be no interruption to gas supplies. No men will be thrown out of work. It was explained today that Fireman Hollow, who is employed by a carrying firm as a driver, would not suffer financial loss through his injuries. All members were covered by insurance. Water supply authorities contend that it is rightly the responsibility of large industrial undertakings to make provision for emergency supplies of water, and that the reserve of 300,000 gallons tapped by the

firemen at the Gasworks last night existed for just that purpose. Other large undertakings in western suburbs have also taken various steps to combat fire dangers.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 28 November 1941, page 10

SERIOUS FIRE AT GASWORKS

Fumes Overcome Firemen

Several firemen had a narrow escape when they were overcome by fumes at a fire in the meter and testing room in No. 2 yard of the Brompton gas works last night. Three firemen who were trapped in a blazing building were taken to hospital in a South Australian ambulance. Two other firemen, an ARP man, and a civilian were treated at the ambulance room of the gas works for slight burns from hot oil which was sprayed over them. The plight of the men was unknown until one of them called for help. The firemen taken to hospital were:— Joseph Hollow, 41, of Arlington terrace, Welland, admitted with foreign body in an eye; James Holmes, 34, of West Hindmarsh; Colin Marchant, 24, of Welland, treated for oil splashes in their eyes. The men treated for burns were S. Hocking, ARP worker and former deputy superintendent; Firemen Ray Wood and R. J. Scott, and Mr. J. B. Schrapel, a civilian, who was assisting the firemen. The alarm was given by Mr. H. Johnson, works superintendent of the SA Gas Company, who called the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade at 7.15 pm. Chief Officer C. J. Plenty and Deputy Superintendent Smith, 33 firemen and 12 ARP men, with a motor pump and two reels, prevented the fire from spreading to other buildings in a thickly populated area. Because of the inflammable nature of the contents of the building, which had brick walls, flames were bursting through the roof before the arrival of the brigade, and hundreds of spectators had to be kept back from it. The firemen were hampered by poor water supply from the mains, but there was a large reservoir containing 300,000 gallons of water held by the company close to the building. The firemen connected their motor pump to this reservoir, but the fire had got such a strong hold that it was impossible to save the contents of the building, which contained materials and equipment for the manufacture and repair of gas meters and tools. The acting secretary of the company (Mr. A. J. Dobson), and the works engineer (Mr. D. Scott Young), who attended the fire, said that the men knocked off at 6.50 p.m., when the building was locked and the gas supply turned off. The origin of the fire and the extent of the damage were unknown. The building and contents were insured. Constable Northcott, of Hindmarsh, is making enquiries.



Firemen playing water on blazing woodwork in the meter room at the Brompton gasworks, which was destroyed by fire last night. Fumes and splashed oil hampered the men, who were assisted by ARP men, soldiers, and civilians.

1942

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 10 January 1942, page 5

Hindmarsh Seeks to Keep firefighters

The Fire Brigades Board proposal to abolish the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was strongly opposed at a deputation to the Premier (Mr. Playford) to-day from Hindmarsh. Members of the deputation pointed out that this was not the time to weaken any firefighting organisation. The board's scheme would cost more than 10 times as much and would lead to the stationing of four permanent officers in the district as against the volunteers' strength of 26. They claimed that the volunteers were as efficient as the professionals, and had more equipment than other suburban stations. When Mr. Playford pointed out the desirability of firemen going outside their district to help with a blaze, a member of the deputation said that the Hindmarsh volunteers had recently extinguished a fire outside their district before the professional brigade even reached the scene. A suggestion that professional firemen might refuse to work with volunteers brought from Mr. Playford a request that each side in the dispute should submit further information to aid him in coming to a decision.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 10 January 1942, page 11

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN AND REGULARS

Will professional firemen refuse to work with volunteers because the latter are not members of the union?

THIS question was raised at a conference at the Premier's office today following mention of the following notice of motion for the next meeting of the fire brigade section of the Government Workers' Association: — "That permanent firemen will not work with members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade, as we believe that such constitutes a danger and is entirely wrong in industrial principles." The Chief Officer of the South Australian Fire Brigades Board (Mr. Whyte) said he did not think the men would refuse to co-operate with volunteer firemen in an emergency. He would order them to co-operate.

Received Deputation

The Premier had earlier received a deputation from the Hindmarsh Council, opposing a proposal by the Fire Brigades Board for a proclamation abolishing the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, which is not controlled by the board. The Fire Brigades Board wants to take over the Hindmarsh area, and has given the required three months' notice of a proclamation to do so. The Hindmarsh deputation, which was introduced by Mr. McInnes, M.P., argued that it would be wrong to abolish the volunteer brigade at a time when there was a need to maintain and strengthen every firefighting organisation. The Premier said that the Government's concern was that it must have available for use at any place and time the complete strength of the firefighting organisation. He asked each side in the dispute to submit further information, and he would see what decision could be made.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 12 January 1942, page 5

DISBANDING HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

Premier Told Cost Would Go Up Ten Times

Following a request to the Government from the Fire Brigades Board that the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade should be disbanded, the Premier (Mr. Playford) received a deputation from the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade on Saturday opposing the recommendation. The request of the board was consequent upon the receipt of an intimation from the South Australian branch of the Australian Government Workers' Union that its fire brigade members would not work alongside volunteer firemen in extinguishing a fire. The Premier said that the proposal of the board was founded upon the assumption that a permanent fire-fighting force would be much more efficient in Hindmarsh than the existing volunteer force. In a letter to the Premier on the matter the secretary of the union (Mr. F. K. Nieass) said that the union considered that the present volunteer method of fighting fires in the Hindmarsh district was outmoded, and constituted a danger to industrial principles. Members of the fire brigade had decided some time ago not to work with volunteer firemen. Mr. Nieass added. This decision would be considered again at a special meeting of the union if the Government refused to abolish volunteer fire fighting forces. In a report to the Premier, the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) stated that in his opinion the present organisation at Hindmarsh constituted a weak link in an otherwise efficient fire-fighting organisation. He said that in the event of an air raid he would order all permanent firemen to work alongside volunteer fire-fighters, and had no doubt that members of the permanent brigade would do so, but all peacetime organisations should be on a permanent establishment. He added that the present emergency situation demanded the largest possible force of trained men who could act immediately under one command. Members of the deputation. which was introduced by Mr. Mc-Innes. MP. said that the volunteer force had cost the Hindmarsh Corporation £65 a year as against an estimated cost of £700 a year for a Professional service. They claimed that it had many times demonstrated that it was just as efficient as the professional force. Mr. Playford has called for a full report on the matter.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 13 January 1942, page 8

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade

Even if the Fire Brigades Board took over the Hindmarsh Fire Station it could not buy modern fire engines at present, because they were not procurable, said the secretary of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade (Mr. G. J. Plenty, jun.), referring to the brigade's protest against being absorbed in the metropolitan brigades. The Hindmarsh Brigade had 37 volunteer members who were mainly engaged in reserved occupations, and because some were on shift work, the brigade could always depend on at least a dozen men answering a call within a few minutes, he said. Although the vehicles owned by the brigade had been in service some years they were in good condition. Most of them covered less than 100 miles a year, and they had a long life. If the board intended to take over the Hindmarsh fire services, it should be after the war, when more men and equipment would be available, he added.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 13 January 1942, page 9

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES

To the Editor

Sir—It should be clearly understood that any references to volunteer fire brigades in my letter to the Premier did not apply to ARP workers. The permanent firemen have complete confidence in the co-operation and assistance they will receive from the efficiently trained fire emergency organisations in the event of fires caused by enemy action. To leave Hindmarsh, as an industrial centre, to inadequate volunteer fire protection is a menace to the war effort of the State. It will interfere with vital production. The cost of a permanent brigade will naturally be higher Any employer could economise with "free labor." The benefits of the reform will greatly outweigh the very small individual cost to the ratepayers, and I happen to be one. The HVFB has served its purpose and outlived its effective usefulness, and so must now give way to a modern fire-fighting system covering the metropolitan area.

I am, Sir. &c., FRANK K. NIEASS.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Thursday 15 January 1942, page 5

Plaster Works Saved

A fire broke out at one end of the fibrous plaster works of Bell and Co., at Blight street, Croydon, late on Tuesday night, but the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade saved the building. A milk float in a lean-to shed adjoining the works and belonging to Mr. W. Raymond, of Drayton street, Bowden, was partly burnt, and the shed demolished. The brigade turned out with 25 men and three vehicles under Deputy-Chief Officer Smith.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 18 February 1942, page 7

Whistle No Longer Summons Firefighters

With the banning of factory sirens for other than air-raid warnings. the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade has lost the whistle that has summoned firemen for half a century. It is the whistle at the Brompton gas works. It was blown every time the fire-fighting apparatus was called out. When air-raid warnings were fixed the blasts were altered to avoid confusion. Hindmarsh's 39 volunteer fire-fighters will now be summoned by telephone. Most work close to the brigade.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 4 May 1942, page 7

Quick-lime Destroyed.—Water which overflowed from a box gutter in the roof of the Wool Bay Lime Company's premises on the Port road, Hindmarsh, early yesterday morning, seeped through the roof and fell on bags of quick-lime. A passer-by called the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, and 21 men under Deputy Chief Officer E. Smith attended. Between 120 and 150 bags of lime were either damaged or destroyed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 10 June 1942, page 5

Fire At Wool Scouring Plant

A quick response by the Hind-marsh Volunteer Fire Brigade to a call from W. F. Foster St. Co.'s wool scouring plant in Manton street, Hindmarsh, at 6.5 pm. yesterday saved the plant, and restricted the fire to a flue which takes off fumes and gases from the wool scouring plant. Damage is estimated at under £50.. Twelve men, under Deputy Chief Officer E. S. Smith, turned out with two appliances.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 11 June 1942, page 6

Volunteer Fire Brigade At Hindmarsh To Go

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, the last of the volunteer brigades in the metropolitan area, is to cease operations. This is the effect of a proclamation issued in Executive Council today declaring that the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act shall apply in and throughout the whole of the municipality of Hindmarsh. The Fire Chief (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said that while the Hindmarsh Brigade had done good work, it must be realised that something more than a volunteer brigade was required in a big industrial centre. The time had arrived for professional firemen to take over the job. He felt that the civil fire-fighting chain under Civil Defence control would be strengthened by the change. Fire underwriters joined with the Fire Brigades Board in a deputation to the Chief Secretary (Mr. McEwin) asking that Hindmarsh be brought under the Act. The local council objected, and the matter was subsequently investigated and reported upon by Mr. President Morgan, of the Industrial Court.

SA Government Gazette, No 26 for 1942. Thursday June 11, 1942

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1942. Fire Brigades Act, 1936-1938, shall apply to the Municipality of Hindmarsh.

PROCLAMATION UNDER THE FIRE BRIGADES ACT,
1936-1938.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA { Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor
to wit. { of the State of South Australia.

(L.S.) C. M. BARCLAY-HARVEY.

BY virtue of the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act, 1936-1938, I, the said Governor, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, and on the recommendation of the Fire Brigades Board, do hereby declare that the said Fire Brigades Act, 1936-1938, shall apply in and throughout the whole of the municipality of Hindmarsh.

Given under my hand and the public seal of South Australia,
at Adelaide, this 11th day of June, 1942.

By command,
C.S.O., 929/1941. A. LYELL MCEWIN, Chief Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

Extract from the SA Government Gazette, No 26 for 1942. Thursday June 11, 1942.

Thursday 11th June 1942 – Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade disbanded
Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Friday 12 June 1942, page 4

NEW FIRE CONTROL FOR HINDMARSH

Volunteer Brigade To Be Dispersed

A proclamation was issued by the Executive Council yesterday declaring that the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act shall apply in and throughout the whole of the municipality of Hindmarsh. The effect of the proclamation is that the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade will cease to exist, and the fire stations there will come under the central control. The chief officer of the Fire Brigade (Mr. J. J. Whyte) said yesterday that while the Hindmarsh brigade had done good work, it was necessary that there should be a proper organisation linked up

with all brigades in the metropolitan area in such an important industrial centre. The decision to change the control of the brigade in Hindmarsh followed a report by Mr. Morgan, SM, now Mr. President Morgan, of the Industrial Court, who had made detailed investigations. The secretary of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade (Mr. G. J. Plenty, jun.) said yesterday that the brigade had been in existence for 58 years. It had attended about 15 fires a year for the past 10 years. The cost of the brigade was about £150 a year, and it received an annual grant of £55 from the Hindmarsh Corporation, £100 from the Underwriters' Association, and a few private subscriptions. The Woodville Fire Brigade, which was placed under the Fire Brigades Board a few years ago, cost about £700 a year. The members of the brigade thought that it should have been retained as a volunteer organisation until the end of the war, Mr Plenty added. Now the brigade would be dispersed and the services of the men lost to the community.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 7 September 1942, page 2

Passing By, By MR. PIM

Historic Document

BROWSING through some old papers the other day, the town clerk of Hindmarsh (Mr. R. W. Langman) came across the original minutes of a public meeting of Hindmarsh citizens held at the house of Mr. John Ridley, on August 19, 1845. They decided to build a chapel at Hindmarsh, the first there, by public subscription among the township's citizens. This building today forms part of the Hindmarsh Fire Station. and is used as a dormitory. The meeting held that the chapel should not have any particular church denomination, but should be used "in the name of Jesus Christ without any other denomination," with the Old and New Testament as the only rule of faith and practice. Even the Ministers were not required to have any specific denomination. When not used for worship, the chapel served as school house for many a Hindmarsh city father.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Tuesday 29 September 1942, page 6

Hindmarsh Council

At last night's meeting the Hindmarsh Council adopted the minutes of the public meeting held last week, when a motion was carried unanimously to form a citizens' committee to forward the Austerity loan campaign. It was also decided to have a citizens' concert and picture night, at which an honor roll containing the names and length of service of all members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade will be unveiled.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 14 April 1943, page 6

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade

A roll of honor as a mark of appreciation of the services to the town of those who served in the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade during the past 58 years will be unveiled by the Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. W E Palmer) at a citizens' night to be held at the Hindmarsh Theatre at 7.40 pm on Tuesday The brigade was disbanded and taken over by the Fire Brigades Board last year.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 19 April 1943, page 6

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

To the Editor

Sir—We feel that in justice to an organisation which was in existence for nearly 60 years that a reply should be made to Mr. Beeton, secretary Fire Brigades Board. Commenting on remarks made by the Mayor of Hindmarsh he claims that the equipment possessed by the Volunteer Brigade consisted of 880 feet of hose and a semi-obsolete pump. This statement is in-correct. When the Volunteer Brigade was taken over it was in possession of more than 2,000 ft. of hose. The so-called semi-obsolete pump happens to be the mainstay of the present Metropolitan Fire Station at Hindmarsh, and as such would be the first appliance to attend a fire.—I am, Sir, &c., G. J. PLENTY. 182 Port road, Hindmarsh.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Wednesday 21 April 1943, page 5

Honor Roll Unveiled At Hindmarsh

A memorial roll-of-honor to the members of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was unveiled by the Mayor of Hindmarsh (Mr. W. E. Palmer) at D. Clifford's theatre last night. Mr. Palmer said that the roll would mark the public recognition of the services of the brigade which had provided fire-fighting services for the district for 58 years. It had now been taken over by the Fire Brigades Board. The change-over had proved to be an expensive one to the Hindmarsh Corporation and the ratepayers. Mr. Palmer added for whereas the volunteer system cost £65 a year, the council had recently received an account for nearly £1,000 from the Metropolitan Fire brigades Board as its quota.



Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Monday 3 May 1943, page 4

HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

To the Editor

Sir—Mr. G.J. Plenty's remarks in "The Advertiser" of April 19 are misleading, It is true that the Volunteer Brigade was in possession of 2,880 ft. of hose when my board took over in

June. 1942. but after testing it at headquarters, the chief officer reported that only 880 ft. would be of use for actual fire work: the balance of 2,000 ft. (which he valued and my board paid for at 6d. per ft.) being only useful for dry drill purposes. The chief officer, in advising the Hindmarsh Council to the above effect, intimated that should the council wish to see the hose tested, he would be pleased to carry out a second test. No representative of the council, however, availed him-self of the invitation. As regards the fire engine, this is certainly in commission at the Hindmarsh Station, but when taken over my board was obliged to ex-pend £160 in order to make it sufficiently effective for use at fires.— I am, Sir, &c., R. B. BEETON, Secretary, the Fire Brigades Board.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 22 May 1943, page 6

POINTS FROM LETTERS

Hindmarsh Fire Brigade

From G. G. Plenty, Port road, Hindmarsh:—Mr. R. B. Beeten states that it was necessary to expend £160 on the "semi-obsolete" pump to make it sufficiently effective for use at fires. This amount was not spent to increase the efficiency of the appliance as a pump. The solid tyred wheels were dis-carded and new wheels with pneumatic tyres added. This would cost about £140, leaving £20 for a wind-screen and repainting. The vehicle remains in the same condition of efficiency as a pump. I was not aware that the disposal of the hose was a "blind sale." On behalf of the old members of the brigade, who were conversant with the condition of the hose, I congratulate the board on their bargain.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), Saturday 2 November 1946, page 14

MR. G. J. PLENTY DIES

Fire Brigade And Ambulance Figure

The death of Mr. George James Plenty occurred at the Elstern Private Hospital, College Park, on Thursday, He was 73.

A well-known figure in the Hindmarsh district, where he was born. Mr. Plenty was an active member of voluntary fire-fighting and ambulance organisations. He joined the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1896, when its equipment consisted of a horse drawn appliance, and became chief officer in 1912. In 1920 Mr. Plenty visited Queensland and studied the working of volunteer ambulances. On his return to Adelaide he organised the South Australian Ambulance and served as chief officer until 1935. Mr. Plenty was a member of the Hindmarsh Council for four years. An enthusiast in all sport, he was connected with the Hindmarsh Bowling Club, and for 16 years was a member of the committee of the West Torrens Football Club. He was educated at Pulteney Grammar School. Mr. Plenty left a widow, Mrs. G. Plenty, of Seaview road, Grange, and a son. Mr. G. J. C. Plenty, of Avenue road, Payneham.

1951

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 22 June 1951, page 8

WHY WAIT FOR A DISASTER TO HAPPEN?

City's ambulance set-up is worst in Australia

by BLAKE BROWNRIGG

THE Royal visit in March next year is almost certain to cause the greatest concentration of people and traffic in Adelaide's history, a swarming mass of excited humanity that could produce in a flash an emergency demand on the city's haphazard ambulance services far beyond their capacity.

And that could transform an occasion of rejoicing to one of tragedy. Adelaide has so neglected its ambulance set-up that, for sheer lack of co-ordination and adequate development, it ranks as the worst in the capital cities of the Commonwealth. Adelaide is the only capital without a central ambulance headquarters, with four separate, scattered ambulance services, un-linked even by direct telephone. It is almost impossible to imagine a big city's fire "protection" in the hands of four small fire brigades, with the possibility of all or none turning up in answer to a call. Experienced ambulance men who have given the community magnificent service are losing heart in the struggle to survive official disinterest, rising costs, and falling manpower. No other Australian city of comparable size would tolerate the wasteful overlapping, need-less travelling, and overall hit-or-miss inefficiency inevitable in such conditions.

Qld. example

In November, 1949, I wrote of the inadequacy of Adelaide's out-of-date ambulance system, especially to meet any big emergency. I disclosed then that a growing population of 400,000, spread over the 160 square miles of the metropolitan area, was "served" by nine ambulances, some of them obsolete by modern standards. For contrast, I quoted the ambulance position in Brisbane, a city only slightly larger than Adelaide. Thirty ambulances, centrally controlled, soon to be equipped with modern two-way frequency modulation radio. In June, 1951, Adelaide's antiquated ambulance set-up is still creaking along with the addition of one ambulance. There are now 10, instead of nine, ambulances available for accident and sickness calls. But some of them are almost worn out. Adelaide has practically stood still! But Brisbane—Here is today's report: There are 40 ambulances in Brisbane, all equipped with two-way radio, operating from a central control room and four suburban sub-stations. In March of last year, the State Government asked the Advisory Council on Health and Medical Services to investigate ambulance services in South Australia. The committee members are—Dr. A. R. Southwood (chairman), Dr. H. M. Birch, Dr. W. Christie, Dr. L. R. Mallen, Dr. Helen Mayo, Dr. J. W. Rollison, and Dr. P. S. Woodruff.

Urgent need

After having assembled "a great deal of information on ambulance services in this State and on the arrangements elsewhere," the council submitted its report to the Government last September. Since then, municipal authorities, ambulance officials, and other interested organisations have been given the opportunity to study and report their views on the findings. State Parliament will meet next Wednesday. It is too late for the ambulance services to be reorganised and rebuilt on a scale commensurate with the demands which huge Royal visit crowds could create. But there is time at least to implement the most urgent of the council's recommendations — "amalgamation of the existing services and the establishment of a central and single call depot for ambulances in the metropolitan area."



★ ABOVE: The imposing headquarters of the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service is in striking contrast to the entrance (right) of the SA Ambulance depot, tucked away between two shops in Port rd., Hindmarsh.



Compensation?

The council's report does not make it clear whether it envisages this "central call depot" being anything more than a switchboard. Parliament would fail the people if it did not wipe out the present disjointed set-up, and substitute plans for grouping existing ambulance services at a central city headquarters, with standardised uniforms, vehicles, equipment, charges, and one easily remembered telephone number. That will take time, but much can be accomplished with the "encouragement" of an aroused public opinion and determined, enlightened administration. In the council's opinion, "no question of financial compensation is likely to arise in any co-ordinating merger." It will be very surprising if so important a move

can be undertaken with out involving some compensation. The council reports that "the present ambulance services in Adelaide are finding it difficult to meet increased costs of wages and maintenance. A stage will be reached when the services may collapse unless some new plans can be made for them." The council suggests that control of the co-ordinated services should be vested in a board re-presentative of the Government, existing services, and other interested groups. It favors a full-time paid staff to conduct the service, assisted by volunteers.

Acid comment

Although the council's report sounds no note or real alarm ["the evidence has shown the ability of the ambulance services to cope with the day-to-day requirements"], it does express some concern for the future. Conceding that there is reason for complaint about existing lack of co-ordination, the council in-jects this unexpectedly acid comment into an otherwise mildly worded report:— "Attention to sick and injured people is at least as important as attention to burning buildings— and an unco-ordinated fire brigade service would not be tolerated." "Other States," the report adds, "have seen and appreciated the value and the practicability of comprehensive, well-organised ambulance schemes, and have evolved them along lines suitable to the needs." Parliament, please note!

It is a pity members of Parliament, and of the advisory council, could not have seen the panic [the term is used by the chief officer of the SA Ambulance Transport, Inc. (Mr. T. H. Lonnen)] last month when mechanical breakdowns put both police ambulances out of action.

36-hour shifts

To meet this emergency, SA Ambulance Transport had to make a stop-gap arrangement with its own vehicles—and three men had 36 hours of straight duty, snatching meals and a little rest as they could! About those police ambulances. Between them they have travelled about 312,000 miles. They are used for accident and sick-ness calls, transfers from Government hospitals, occasional country trips. One ambulance is occupied five days a week transporting polio after-care patients. The drivers are not required to take refresher courses in first aid. When two new police ambulances come into service in September it is likely the two older vehicles will be retained for emergency use. The police trans-port branch will shortly be transferred from Angas street to more commodious quarters at the Police Training College, Thebarton.

Bad for morale

Here are other facts Parliament should consider:— Mr. Lonnen says, "Delay by the Government in making a decision on co-ordination of ambulance services is having an adverse effect on replacements. Men leave for various reasons, and it is increasingly difficult to re-place them with men of the right type. "South Australia is the only State in the Commonwealth without proper ambulance head-quarters. The public attitude is, 'the Government doesn't care, why should we?' That is bad for morale. "The SA Ambulance Transport has had no proper headquarters since the fire brigade took over its place in 1942. We are accommodated, on a monthly rental basis, through the generosity of a proprietor who wants the premises. "The men's sleeping and re-creation quarters over a furniture factory would be a death trap in the event of fire.

Overlapping

"We have been waiting for some Government decision before raising our fees. If we have to carry on for another six months like this, our scale of charges will have to go up. "The bright spot in the set-up is the magnificent loyalty and service of our men. Permanent men often finish a long day's duty, and then continue as 'volunteers.' On such a spirit, the service is able to carry on." Secretary of the Northern Suburbs Ambulance Association (Mr. L. W. March): "Our financial position has improved, but the strain is still on. Our staff has been cut to a minimum. We really should have another man. Two of us are on tap on the telephone 24 hours a day. "Cases of overlapping are still occurring, and they are not all caused by excited witnesses of accidents telephoning more than one ambulance service. Three times recently our ambulance has been called to Parafield to pick up a patient arriving by plane, only to find a SA Ambulance Transport vehicle there also." Government action to give Adelaide an ambulance service worthy of its importance and standing as a growing, progressive city, is long overdue.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 16 February 1953, page 11

"No respectable stone wants to gather any dirty moss," said a teenager when warned of the perils awaiting rolling stones.

But that was 50 years ago, and the rolling stone has rolled a lot since then. Moss has never had time to gather on Thomas Henry Lonnen, of 7 East avenue, Mills-wood Estate. who was 66 yesterday.

He's held many jobs since that warning about rolling stones, but he's also built a successful business, and a fine re-cord of ambulance, fire brigade. and RSL service. Fighting other boys lost Tom Lonnen his first job at 13, and quarrels with the boss cost him several more. After three years with a firm of printers, he spent brief periods in several printing offices ("to get a two-bob rise you had to change offices in those days"). Sham battles with the 10th Australian Infantry Regiment and firefighting with the Hind-marsh Volunteer Fire Brigade provided an outlet for his restlessness at 19. "I loved firefighting so much that it's a wonder I didn't start a few," says Tom. "Biggest one I attended was W. H. Burford's at Hindmarsh in December, 1907. It was my first fire, not counting shops and pugholes. "The Metropolitan Fire Brigade came down to help us, and nearly pumped the Torrens dry. Big fire risk "Worst fire was at a Southwark soapworks about 1910. We weren't mechanised, and the brigade nag was sick. "I was one of the first four men to answer the call, and we had to haul the reel ourselves about three-quarters of a mile along the Port road. "The reel had 6 ft. wheels with iron tyres, and more than 400 ft. of hose aboard. "Hindmarsh, with its soap works, tanneries, skin yards, and enormous piles of firewood at brickyards, was Adelaide's biggest potential fire risk. "The oldfashioned drapers' shops on the Port road had open gaslights, and no chemical extinguishers. "The volunteer firemen were a rough lot, good citizens, and just as good at firefighting as the professionals." Before Tom Lonnen got mixed up with ambulance work, he worked on farms, in quarries, scraped salt, sold typewriters, had nearly three years abroad with the 27th Battalion, and went into partnership as printers with the battalion's best cook. The Hindmarsh firemen and St. John's men worked together soon after the Hindmarsh Volunteer Ambulance was formed in 1921. His treble Tom Lonnen became drill instructor, and succeeded Mr. G. J. Plenty as chief officer after it became the SA Ambulance Transport Inc., and before it merged with the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Among Tom Lonnen's claims to fame is that he helped found and was first president of three big RSL sub-branches—Prospect, Goodwood, and Clarence Park. At one stage of his career he was a drill

instructor at Hind-marsh, commanded a company of militia, was chairman of Black Forest School Committee, chairman of Goodwood ALP Committee, president of an RSL sub-branch, and a member of the RSL Council. However, he still found time, for gardening, tennis, and poker. Later he formed a mouth-organ band at 5CL Girls' Blue-birds' Club, and played with them in a mixed mouthorgan band. Now he's governing director of Lonnen & Clark, Ltd., printers. His daughter Beryl (now Mrs. M. Clark) ran it while he was on service during World War II., and his wife put in three years there. In 1950 it became a limited company with all the family as shareholders. On Friday we visit Fergusson square, Toorak Gardens.



Tom Lonnen ... loved fire fighting.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 23 June 1953, page 20

When vats burst they....

FOUGHT BIG FIRE WITH WINE

FOR two hours firemen fought a fire with wine, but the spirits in it fed the blaze.

This outbreak is one of the vivid memories of 41 years' voluntary firefighting by 70-year-old Mr. Edgar S. Smith, of Allenby Gardens. He was deputy chief officer of Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade when it was absorbed by the metropolitan brigade in 1941. Wine was used when the distillery of Thomas Hardy and Sons at Bankside (near Underdale) caught alight on October 15, 1904. The Hindmarsh unit was called to assist. In the cellars were 250,000 gallons of wine. Vats burst open as the distillery burned, and wine which did not burst into flame flowed into the cellar. Superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (Mr. Booker) put suction hoses through the cellar grating. Two streams of wine were pumped back on to the fire. After the fire the cellar floor was still 6 in. deep with wine. Half of the cellar's contents had been destroyed. Trained 200 Formed in 1881, Hind-marsh brigade was the last voluntary brigade to pass to metropolitan head-quarters control. It had trained 200 fire men and saved more than 10 times the amount of property destroyed by fire during its existence. Its first big outbreak was at Tamblyn and Coombe's rope works at Croydon in 1885. The brigade subsequently quelled another fire at the rope works in 1903 and a third in 1912 when the rope-making plant was lost but the nail plant saved. Eight physically fit young men were first accepted into the brigade. They worked with a hand reel which two of them helped build. They sometimes ran long distances with this reel to a fire. Perhaps the longest was three miles to the Burford factory in Grenfell street (near East terrace). Hot work, Mr. Smith recalled, was the fire at the Burford timber mill and cornflour works at Hindmarsh on Christmas Day, 1907. The temperature was 116 deg. in the shade, and the Hindmarsh firemen worked continuously for 20 hours from 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve.



MR. EDGAR S. SMITH . . . reflecting over a pipe.

Nearby residents carried their most cherished longings in wheelbarrows and handcarts as they fled from the danger area. Two homes were damaged during this fire. David Reid's tannery was saved. Best save The brigade's save of John Reid's tannery in 1919 was hailed as the greatest save in SA fire history. Fire broke out in a large timber mill alongside the tannery. Seeing the hopelessness of the burning timber yard, the brigade concentrated on protecting the tannery. Flames licked it on two sides, but it escaped with a scorching and £250 heat damage to a stack of green hides. Underwriters had considered that if either building caught alight, both would be destroyed. The Brompton Gasworks hooter was the alarm which summoned Hindmarsh firemen. A continuous blast indicated the fire was south of the railway line, and intermittent blasts were given for fires to the north. Chief officers of the brigade were Messrs. J. M. Reid (until 1900), J. Duncan (1900-1912), and G. J. Plenty. Mr. Plenty gave 44 years' service, and his son (Mr. G. J. C. Plenty) was secretary, and nephew (Mr. L. C. Plenty) a fireman. Long service Deputy Chief Officer S. C. Hocking had 44 years' service, and his son. Mr. C. H. Hocking joined the brigade. When Mr. W. Wood was Mayor of Hindmarsh, three sons were in the brigade Messrs. N. F. (20 years' service), R. H. (19 years), and M. C. Wood (11 years). Fathers and sons in the brigade included Messrs. A. A. and G. C. V. Stone, A. and J. Koloschke. C. and H. C. Hofmeyer, E. S. and D. F. S. Stroud, and P. H. and R. Miller. The brigade did not have a fatality, and casualties were very few. A strong team spirit was built up, helped by social activity. The men met every evening for recreation and entertainment at their clubroom, where there was always some activity to keep them interested. Headquarters were first set up next to the Land of Promise Hotel, on the Port road, but in 1894 the fire station was moved to the building which had been the first church in Hindmarsh. In 1921 an ambulance service was started in conjunction with the fire brigade.