

MISCELLANEOUS.

C.S.

1926.

No. 625/26.

H.E. the Ag. Governor.

SUBJECT.

Outbreak of fire in Drury Street on 12th December, 1926.

1926.
13th December.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

Minute from H.E. the Acting Governor dated 17th Dec. 26.
Memo. to Chief Constable & Superintendent Fire Brigade.

4. 17. 12. 26

6. 14. 12. 26

- 4. 5 Report by Chief Constable 15th December, 1926.
- 6. 7 Report by Superintendent Fire Brigade 15 Dec 1926
- 8-9 Letter from Coroner 16. 12. 26.
- 9. Sd. M. The part played by the

Fire Brigade on this occasion is not particularly apparent and I. may wish to have some more specific report on that aspect from the Lt. Col. 17. 12. 26.

PA 24/12/26
1.
2. 3

Subsequent Paper.

H.C.

1. Particularly in view of the consideration which has been given during the last month or so to the ^{question of the} organisation of the Stanley Volunteer Fire Brigade, I should like fuller particulars of the work of the members, qua Fire Brigade, at the outbreak.

2. The firing of a gun on Victory Green is part of the "Alarm" signal in conjunction with the ringing of the Alarm bell at the Gaol. I require an explanation as to why this gun was not fired.

H.C.
18 Deci. 1926

- Memo. to C. Constable dated 18.12.1926. 10.
- " " Sub-Comd Fire Brigade 18.12.1926. 11.
- Memo from Superior (Fire Brigade) dated 20 Dec 1926 12.
- " " " " " " " " " " " " 29.12.26
- " " " " " " " " " " " " 17.12.26.

J.E.
Met 12 subitted. Unit H.P. 9/29/26 simultaneous.
J.E.
20.12.26.

H.C.

1. No further action required on (17)

H.C.
21 Deci. 1926

Memo from Chief Constable 20th Dec, 1926. 13.

Inside Minute Paper.

I should like to inform the Chief
 Constable that he should take steps
~~to ensure~~ that the gun is found
 promptly and without fail or a false
 occasion.

Yours
20. 12. 26

[Signature]

14. Memo to Chief Constable - 23 Dec: 1926
24. 12. 26

Yours
24. 12. 26

From His Excellency the Governor



to The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

With reference to the disastrous fire which took place
at Mr. Pearson's house in Drury Street, and which ended
in such tragic circumstances, will you please call
for a full report from the Chief Constable and from
the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade.

B.
13 Dec. 1926

No. ~~605/26~~

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.


.....14th December, 1926.

To... The Superintendent of the
Stanley Fire Brigade.

From

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

I am directed by the Acting Governor to call for a full report on the fire which took place at Mr. W. Pearson's house in Drury Street on the morning of Sunday, the 12th of December.



Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 62/26

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

(3)

.....14th December, 19 26.

To...The Chief Constable;

.....STANLEY.
.....

From

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

I am directed by the Acting Governor to call for a full report on the fire which took place at Mr. W. Pearson's house in Drury Street on the morning of Sunday, the 12th of December.



Acting Colonial Secretary.

To the
Hon Col. Secretary



VIII Police + Prison (5)
Department
Stanley
Dec 15 1926

Sir, on the morning of the 12th inst
at 7.15. a.m. the fire bell was rung by Mr
G. Paice. I learned that the House occupied
by Mr. W. Pearson was then badly on fire
in Dury St.

on arriving at the House at 7.20. a.m. it
was in flames all over and I learned that
three of Mr. Pearson's children were still
inside the House, it was impossible to save
the children,
a fire Hydron was connected and water
played on the nest House which had
just caught, during this time the fire
engine was in the backyard getting up
steam and hoses were connected to the
scene of the fire, when after a little while
something went wrong with the fire engine,
water was then procured by lorries, and
also from a well at the back of Mr. J
Sullivan's premises, and at about 8. a.m.
the fire was well under control.

The fire must have originated from the
Kitchen stove, which had an iron pipe,
instead of a brick chimney.

The stove was lit that morning by Mr. Pearson's
son about 6.15. a.m., when he then went to his
work as errand boy.

at about 9.15 a.m. the bodies of the three
children were removed to the mortuary by
the Police.

in my opinion great credit is due to Mr John
Greerson, Mr. V. A. Biggs + Mr. Whicoll + Mr. G. Roberts, for
the good work done by them, also to Mr. J. Miller
Mr. J. Davis for their prompt action in getting
Mr. + Mrs. Pearson out of the House.

from the time of the fire first noticed

until the roof fell in was ~~was~~
about 30 minutes

I am sir

Your Obedient Servant

H. Sullivan

Chief Constable



15/12/26.
P. Stanley
∞

Sir

In accordance with your M. 14/12/26, I have the honor to report the fire at Mr Pearson's Cottage on Sunday 12th inst. The times are probably not accurate, but should be within 10 to 15 mins of correct.

A man named Burns passed down the road at 6.30 A.M. & reports all was normal in the Street as far as he noticed.

J. Davis was in the street where the Hotel stands & saw the flames. He states this was at 6.50 A.M.

At about 6.45 A.M. the small daughter of Pearson, who works in the house of the Lt. Col. Sugr, woke him up saying the Pearson's house was on fire & the children were being burnt.

Mr & Mrs Pearson were outside, & were taken away.

People were turning out at this time, aroused by cats, the noise, & seeing the flames.

The Alarm Bell was rung at some time between 7.0 A.M. & 7.15, according to the different accounts.

I did not hear this myself.

G. Kellogg of the S.I.S. arrived at 7.15 & turned on the nearest hydrant, which in the opinion of witnesses saved the next cottage & probably the Street.

As soon as the pipe was nearly empty, the pressure dropped & this was only useful for filling a few buckets, etc.

The brickmen gang were on the scene about 7.10 & did good work in saving the next houses.

The Fire Engine was on the jetty about 7.30 & pumped for about 5 mins, after which two of the tanks burst, & the engine had to be stopped.

The hoses had been filled up to the fire, & this water was also useful for buckets.

At 7.20 the upper story collapsed.

At roughly 8.0 A.M. G. Roberts, S.I.S. turned out his lorry & they were employed carrying sand & water to the fire.

A chain had by this time been formed & buckets were being passed from hand to hand from a nearby house to the fire.

It was finally extinguished at 9.15, the place being almost entirely gutted.

The brick chimney was pulled down to save it from collapse when people were working near.

The three children were removed from their beds to the

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working as soon as possible.
On going to the Fire Engine with a view to returning it
to the shed, it was found that one of the wheels was
heavily burnt through from the red hot ashes from the
furnace.

I have the honour to be

Sir
your obedient Servant

W. Madson.

Sub: Fire Engine

—

The Colonial Secretary
P. Stanley.

9

MINUTE.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this letter, the above Number and the date may be quoted.)



December 16th.....19 26

From.....Ag. Coroner.....

Stanley.

To

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Hon. Col. Sec,

I beg to transmit for information copy of the finding of the Jury at a Coroners Inquest held on Tuesday the 14th inst., into the circumstances attending the deaths on the 12th inst., at Stanley, of Mabel Regina Pearson, John Pearson and Heather Rose Pearson.

M. Grainger Harcourt

Ag. Coroner.

FALKLAND ISLANDS:

TO WIT:

An Inquest held for Our Sovereign Lord the King at the Court Room, Town Hall, Stanley, Falkland Islands on the 14th day of December 1926, Before me Montagu Cecil Craigie-Halkett, Acting Magistrate and Coroner of our Lord the King in and for the said Islands, on view of the bodies of Mabel Regina Pearson, John Pearson and Heather Rose Pearson then and there lying dead, upon the oath of the several jurors whose names are hereunder subscribed, and seals affixed being good and lawful men of the said Islands duly chosen, and who being then and there duly sworn and charged to inquire for our said Lord the King by what means the said Mabel Regina Pearson, John Pearson and Heather Rose Pearson came to their deaths on Sunday the 13th day of December 1926, do upon their oaths say that the said Mabel Regina Pearson, John Pearson and Heather Rose Pearson came to their deaths as the result of asphyxiation through fire caused accidentally and to no other cause.

(signed) Clement Harrison, Foreman.	Seal.
" Vere F. Summers.	"
" Joseph P. Lanning.	"
" Walter Watts.	"
" B.A. Sedgwick.	"
" Markham J. Luxton.	"
" E.N. Summers.	"

In Witness whereof as well the said Acting Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid have hereunto set their hands and seals this 14th day of December 1926.

(signed) M. Craigie-Halkett Seal
Ag. Coroner.

Certified to be a true copy of the original finding of the Jury.

M. Craigie Halkett
Ag. Coroner.

16th December 1926.

No. 625/26.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this letter, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

10.

18th December, 19 26.

From

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The Chief Constable,

STANLEY.

With reference to your report, dated the 15th December, 1926, on the subject of the outbreak of fire in Drury Street on the 12th of December, I am directed by the Acting Governor to request an explanation as to why the gun on Victory Green was not fired as part of the "Alarm" Signal, in conjunction with the ringing of the Alarm Bell.



Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 625/26.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this letter, the above Number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

18th December, 19 26.

From

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

Stanley, Falkland Islands.

To The Superintendent, Fire Brigade,

STANLEY.

With reference to your report, dated the 15th of December, 1926, on the subject of the outbreak of fire in Drury Street on the 12th of December, I am directed by the Acting Governor to inform you that, particularly in view of the consideration which has been given recently to the question of the organisation of the Stanley Volunteer Fire Brigade, His Excellency should like fuller particulars of the work of the Members, qua Fire Brigade, at the outbreak.



Acting Colonial Secretary.

12 20/12/26.
P. Stanley



Sir

In accordance with your M. 625/26 of 18.12.26. I have the honour to report that I can only inform you by hearsay evidence of the work of the members of the S.B. at the outbreak.

I was not there for a considerable period, & do not know many of the members, as such, by sight. The two who I am informed were there early & doing good work were J. Guiseon & Kelway, both old & tried members of the brigade.

I have the honour to be

Sir

your obedient servant

W. Anderson.

Sub: S.B.F.B.

The Colonial Secretary
P. Stanley

FALKLAND ISLANDS.



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C.S. No.....

MEMO.

Departmental Number.

From. *The Chief Constable*

VIII Police & Prison

Date. *22 Dec 1926*

To. *The Hon. Sec. Secretary*

Reference Numbers.

No 625/26

Sir with reference to your letter of the 18th inst, I beg to report that on the outbreak of the fire on the morning of the 12th inst, in Dairy Street, four Constables and myself proceeded to the scene of the fire, Const Earl was on Town duty at the time patrolling the East end on his return to the fire station there was several people about and he omitted to fire the gun which should have been done being at the fire myself with the other Constables the Gun signal was forgotten.

I am Sir
your Obedient Servant
D. J. Sullivan

No.

(It is requested that, in any reference to this minute, the above number and the date may be quoted).

MINUTE.

.....24th December,.....19 26.

To.....The Chief Constable,

.....STANLEY.....

From

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

With reference to your memo. of the 22nd of December, containing your explanation as to why the gun on Victory Green was not fired as part of the "Alarm" Signal at the recent outbreak of fire in Drury Street, I am directed by the Acting Governor to inform you that you should take steps to ensure that the gun is fired promptly and without fail on a future occasion.

