

POWER STATION FIRE

Only slight damage resulted from a fire which broke out near the carpentry and joinery shed of W. Fairweather and Sons at the South Fremantle power station late last night. The fire is believed to have been started at an electric bench saw, the switch of which had been left on.

The nightwatchman was patrolling between the rear of the building and the sea about 11 o'clock when he noticed flames near the bench saw. Short ends of timber and sawdust scattered around the saw, which was under a lean-to shed, were alight and the flames had spread over about 100ft. of pinewood stacked nearby. The nightwatchman, aided by three others, with the use of fire extinguishers, had the fire under control when the Fremantle fire brigade arrived.

Blaze At New Power Station

Fire severely damaged the electric motor of a 7-ton crane on the 80ft. staging at South Fremantle power station early last night.

Fremantle Fire Brigade, with Station-Officer Sinclair in charge, attended, and using a 400ft. hose brought the outbreak under control.

Outbreak was confined to the electrical gear.

It is not known how the fire occurred.

State Electricity chairman R. J. Dumas said last night that as the crane was not engaged on the high priority A section—it was being used on B section—the fire would not affect the general construction work on the new plant.

Repairs to the crane would probably be effected in a relatively short time.

➡ *Former Chief Inspector of Police G. V. Purdue died yesterday.
See page 35.*

FIRE AT POWER STATION

The electric motor and decking of a crane on the 80ft. staging at the South Fremantle power station were badly damaged by fire early on Saturday night. The cause of the fire is not known. Firemen from the Fremantle station under Station-officer Sinclair put the blaze out in about 1½ hours by using a 400ft. hose. No damage was done to the power-station building.

CRANK HANDLE STRIKES MAN

When a diesel motor he was cranking backfired at the new South Fremantle power station about 11.30 a.m. yesterday, Alfred Fredrick Black (41), married, leading handfitter, of Fortesque-street, East Fremantle, was struck on the head by the crank handle.

He was taken to the Fremantle Hospital in a St. John ambulance and was admitted with a fractured skull and abrasions to the face. His name was placed on the danger list and last night his condition was still reported to be serious. The motor he was cranking drives a compressor at the station.

YOUTH INJURED IN FALL

James Needham (15), apprentice, of South-street, Beaconsfield, received a possible fractured jaw, possible fractured leg, concussion and lacerations of the ear about 1.30 p.m. yesterday, when he fell 20ft. from a landing on which he was standing at the South Fremantle power station. He was taken in a St. John ambulance to the Fremantle Hospital, where early last night his condition was reported to be "satisfactory."

TRUCK TIPS WHEN BOILER PIPES SLIP



A heavy load of boiler pipes for the South Fremantle power station caused this truck to tip when they shifted as it was travelling up an incline in Fremantle yesterday afternoon.

No Damage Caused By Fire At New Power Station

Quick work by engineers, watchmen and firemen saved any damage to machinery when a fire broke out on the first floor of the main building of the South Fremantle power station early yesterday morning. The fire was confined to a small section of the building and was soon under control.

The general manager of the State Electricity Commission (Mr. F. C. Edmondson) said yesterday that the fire would make no difference to the opening date of the new power station. "It might just as well have occurred in the yard for all the damage it caused," was the comment of another official.

Damage was confined to a large packing-case containing spare

electrical equipment. Flames from the pine packing-case were noticed by an engineer shortly after 3 a.m. He asked a watchman to notify the Fremantle fire station while efforts were made to extinguish the blaze with a garden hose and fire extinguishers. This action probably saved a large switchboard control panel nearby from any damage other than a scorching.

As the Fremantle brigade under Third-Officer W. C. Harris raced the four miles to the scene, the building stood out like a beacon in the darkness. Firemen commented that the flames could be seen clearly through the glass of the building, which appeared aglow.

Within 15 minutes of the brigade's arrival, the fire was under control. A line of hose was used attached to one of the hydrants surrounding the building. Some electrical equipment—mainly meters and wire—was burnt. Firemen remained at the building for 2½ hours before returning to their station.

Inquiries were made by the Fremantle branch of the C.I.B., but there are no suspicious circumstances to the fire. It is thought that it began in the packing-case as a result of sparks from an electric welder's torch. A welder was working in that section of the building on Thursday afternoon.

BASELESS RUMOR OF SERIOUS POWER BREAK

Stupid rumor circulating during the week suggested there had been a serious break at the new South Fremantle Power Station.

This is absolutely without foundation.

Sufficient proof is that the South Fremantle power has been and still is on tap as originally announced and benefits are already being experienced by householders this cold weather in their freedom to use radiators and other seasonal accessories.

MAN'S 20ft. FALL

While working on constructional work at the South Fremantle Power Station, yesterday afternoon, Gerald Roberts, of May-avenue, Subiaco, fell 20ft. on to a concrete floor.

He was taken to the Fremantle Hospital in a St. John ambulance and admitted for observation of concussion. It is not known what caused him to fall.

Fall At Power Station Fatal

Martin Hill (25) who fell 30 feet at South Fremantle power station on Friday morning, died under an anaesthetic at Fremantle hospital yesterday afternoon.

In his fall he sustained a fractured left thigh, compound fracture of the jaw and fractured collar-bone.

Death After 30ft. Fall

Injured in a 30ft. fall from steel framework at the South Fremantle power station on Friday morning, Martin Hill (25), rigger, of Judge-avenue, Claremont, died in the Fremantle Hospital on Saturday.

Mr. Hill received a fractured left thigh, a compound fracture of the jaw and a fractured collarbone in the fall.

Accident At Power Station

Hit by a piece of falling timber while working on a steel structure at the South Fremantle power station yesterday, William James Smith, 38, of Hilton Park, was taken by ambulance to Fremantle Hospital.

He is stated to have concussion and possible fractured jaw.

ARMY TO DEFEND FREMANTLE BY TELEPHONE TOMORROW

ARMY officers on the reserve list of Western Command will match their wits and knowledge tomorrow against a hypothetical enemy bent on capturing South Fremantle power station and Fremantle Harbour.

They will be some 20 miles away from the "battleground," however, countering the enemy's thrusts in a telephone battle over Swan Barracks' internal signal network.

About 30 members of the reserve officers' staff group will take part in Exercise Uproar. They will be the "back-room boys" responsible for the over-all conduct of the defensive action.

They will be told that a force of "Fantasians," landed at Bunbury, had swooped on Pinjarra and sent a column along the Pinjarra - Mandurah road towards Fremantle.

With a brigade group at their command the reserve officers will be split into various headquarters in rooms throughout the Barracks.

A control centre of Western Command staff officers will keep the defenders informed of the enemy's movements and set problems which will have to be dealt with by rapid phone consultation.

Exercise Uproar has been designed to teach the officers the duties and responsibilities of staff officers on brigade and battalion levels.

Iron Falls On Workman

A fitter at the South Fremantle power station was struck by a sheet of iron which fell from a block and tackle about 3.15 p.m. yesterday.

He is Percy Samuels (51), of Ellen-street, Fremantle.

A St. John ambulance took him to the Fremantle Hospital where he was admitted for observation of a possible back injury.

22,000-VOLT WIRES BURN A LINESMAN

Power lines carrying 22,000 volts burnt and crippled a State Electricity Commission linesman at work on a pole near the South Fremantle power station on Saturday.

He is William Ralph Thomas Vowles (48), of Bellevue-terrace, Fremantle.

He was badly burnt on the scalp, the left forearm and the toes of his left foot.

Later, in the Fremantle Hospital, the forearm and two toes were amputated.

Only his safety belt prevented a serious fall after he touched the wires.

Other linesmen working nearby lowered him to the ground and gave him artificial respiration, using a ladder as a rocking stretcher across a truck, until a St. John ambulance arrived.

His condition is satisfactory.

Linesman Dies of Burns

Perth, Dec. 16.—A State Electricity Commission linesman who was badly burnt and crippled last Saturday when he touched power lines carrying 22,000 volts, died in Fremantle Hospital at 3 a.m., to-day.

He was William Ralph Vowles (48), of Bellevue terrace, Fremantle.

Mr. Vowles was working on a pole near the South Fremantle power station when he received the shock. His forearm and two toes had to be amputated.

The condition of another S.E.C. linesman, Frank Andrew Seubert, of Maisbury street, Bicton, who was found burnt and shocked in the Fremantle sub-station in Parry street, on Monday, was described to-day as satisfactory.