

Protection Against Outbreaks of Fire.

Memorandum for the Consideration of Local Government Authorities throughout the Island.

A conference was held at the Government Office on Saturday, April 20th, 1912, between the Government Secretary and representatives from the municipal authorities of Douglas, Ramsey, Castletown, Peel, Port Erin, Port St. Mary, Laxey, Onchan, and Kirk Michael, for the purpose of considering whether any, and if so, what steps should be taken for improving the existing methods of affording protection to life and property from outbreaks of fire.

At this conference it was suggested that a scheme of co-operation on the part of the various Local Government authorities should be devised, whereby a professional Fire Brigade, with two up-to-date motor engines of high speed, could be maintained and stationed at a central spot in the Island, from which the whole Island could be served, keeping in the towns and large villages merely first-aid appliances.

An opinion was expressed that if some such scheme were adopted it should be worked by the Government, a penny rate being levied throughout the Island annually for the purpose of defraying the cost thereof, and the Government Secretary was requested to submit a memorandum of the cost to the local authorities concerned—this information is supplied herewith.

In the event of such a scheme as is indicated above (to be carried out by the Government) being adopted it would be most essential that the Fire Brigade should be placed under the control of the Chief Constable, who would also be responsible for the first-aid equipment duties in the towns and villages being controlled, and so far as possible, being performed entirely by the Police.

The rate would be collected by the Asylums Board along with the Asylum rate, and would be paid over to the Treasurer of the Island, who would defray the cost of the entire fire service thereout.

As it is more than doubtful if, under the existing Local Government Acts, the Commissioners of Village and Parish Districts could enter into the scheme, it would probably be necessary to introduce legislation, not only to enable this to be done, but also to impose the necessary rate.

In the event of local authorities so wishing it might be possible for His Excellency to effect an arrangement whereby the cost of the whole scheme would be defrayed from the general revenue of the Island.

B. E. SARGEAUNT,
Government Secretary.

INITIAL EXPENDITURE.

Erection of Fire Station and quarters for men	...	...	...	£2,000	0	0
Purchase of two Motor Engines (speed 40 miles per hour)...	...	...	...	2,500	0	0
First-Aid Equipment for towns and villages	...	...	...	500	0	0
				£5,000	0	0
				£5,000	0	0

ANNUAL ESTIMATE.

Proceeds of 1d. Rate throughout the Island	£1,650 0 0		Allowance to Chief Constable Chief Officer of Fire Brigade 2nd Officer do. do. Two Skilled Mechanics ... Eight Firemen ... Renewals and upkeep ... Uniform ... Allowances to Police ... Fuel, Light, and, other ex- penses at Fire Station ... Interest and Sinking Fund on initial outlay ...	£70 0 0 150 0 0 100 0 0 160 0 0 416 0 0 200 0 0 60 0 0 100 0 0 94 0 0 300 0 0	0 0 0 0
£1,650 0 0			£1,650 0 0		