IV. 1920-1921.

PROTECTION
AGAINST FIRE—ACCRA.

Ordered by His Excellency the Governor to be Printed.

GOLD COAST:
GOVERNMENT PRESS, ACCRA.

1921.

Price 1s.
PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE—ACCRA.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Accra, Gold Coast.
15th February, 1921.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit a scheme prepared in conjunction with the Inspector General of Police, Captain Gwyther and Mr. Colman representing the Maintenance Engineer, Water Works, for Protection against Fire in Accra; this might also be adapted for Sekondee, or any other town, where a supply of water is maintained under pressure in pipes to any appreciable extent over the area of the town.

2. We are agreed that a scheme run on voluntary lines will not be satisfactory, also, that as the utmost economy has to be studied in view of the present financial position, existing Government organizations must be utilized and co-ordinated pending the ability to maintain a separate, distinct and more ambitious organization.

It is not, however, considered that the necessity for this will arise for some years to come.

3. For extinction of Fire by water, Accra is entirely dependent during the greater part of the year on the pipe borne water supply, which is at sufficient pressure to reach the top of any existing building in Accra, and so distributed that there are very few spots in the town which do not come under control from one or more of the existing hydrants, even these can be brought under control as extensions of the main are laid and additional hydrants are fixed.

It is, therefore, considered unnecessary to include a Fire engine (Pump) in the equipment.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. I. That dependence be placed on the maintenance of an efficient supply of high pressure water in the main, a proper distribution of hydrants, and a sufficiency of hose with standard fittings and accessories for speedy connection to the main.

II. That a small Fire Brigade, consisting of the distribution staff of the Water Works and a selected crew of the Police from the Orderly Room Staff at the Police Barracks, be formed and placed during drills and Fire calls under the command of the Distribution Foreman (Mr. Groves) who (like his brother who relieves him) is an experienced Fireman and capable of giving instructions in the proper use of the appliances.

The Brigade would consist of:

The Distribution Foreman of the Water Works, (Mr. Groves).
One Motor Driver.
One Superintendent of Police.
One Sergeant.
Two Corporals.
Five Constables.

III. That the Heads of Departments from which the Brigade is drawn shall, not only give facilities, but constitute it a part of the duty of each Member, to attend practice drills each week at regular stated times; these drills being under the same strict discipline as prevails in the Police Force, the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade being endowed for the time being with the disciplinary authority of a senior Police Officer.
IV. The capacity of this Brigade being very limited and as so much depends upon prompt action being taken when an outbreak of Fire occurs.

It is therefore recommended that commercial firms, and others, who are responsible for property which is liable to damage by fire, shall take such steps as are possible by providing and maintaining automatic sprinklers or a sufficient supply of efficient chemical extinguishers and buckets of sand, so placed that they may be readily accessible to the staff or watchman in charge of the building, who should be regularly instructed in their use. The periodical inspection of these appliances might, on request, be undertaken by the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, who should be entitled to receive a fee for his services.

The attention of the following should be particularly called to this:— Proprietors of Stores, Garages and Cinemas.

V. It is recommended that emergency appliances consisting of:—

(a) First-aid Wall Boxes:—

Containing valve key, stand pipe, four 50 ft. lengths of hose and connections, hand pipe, nozzle, and axe be provided at the following Government Buildings:—

1. The Secretariat.
2. The European Hospital.
3. The Native Hospital.
4. The Asylum.
5. The Prison Headquarters (Ussher Fort).
6. The Post Office.
7. The Railway Station.
8. The Customs Warehouse.
10. The Survey Headquarters, Cantonments.

(b) Chemical Extinguishers:—

Wireless Station.
All Government Offices.
Government Schools.
Government Hospitals.
Police Pickets.
Prisons.
Customs Warehouses.
Government Stores.
Technical School.
Laboratory.
Workshops.

(c) Boxes of sand with indicating boards:—

At all Government Bungalows, Offices, Stores, Warehouses, Workshops, Garages, Schools and Institutions to which motor vehicles have access, or where oil, spirit or other similar material is stored.

VI. The Members of the Brigade should be remunerated:—

Chief Officer, £60 p.a. plus inspection fees.

Other Members:—

For each drill or false alarm ... ½ day's pay.
For each fire to which they are turned out ... 1 day's pay.

VII. It is recommended that six No. 1 ½ inch Verey Light guns be obtained together with a supply of lights, which should be of a distinctive character such as a string of three or four lights, golden rain, etc.

If 1 ½" guns are not obtainable 1" pistols might suffice.
VIII. It is recommended that the Brigade should be equipped with helmets, coats, belts and axes.

IX. **Transport.** A motor lorry and trailer should be maintained at the Water Works Yard solely for the use of the Fire Brigade, these should be equipped with all necessary tools, hose, chemical extinguisher, ladders, etc. so as to be available for use at any time during the day or night. The Motor Driver should be employed on regular work in the Water Works Yard and be provided with sleeping quarters there.

The existing material as listed below is sufficient for present purposes and should be suitably housed under charge of the Chief Officer at the Water Works Yard, at the junction of Station Road and Governor Rowe's Road.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7—100 feet lengths 2½&quot; hose, instantaneous couplings</td>
<td>700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5—50 feet lengths 2½&quot; hose, instantaneous couplings</td>
<td>250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9—50 feet lengths 2½&quot; hose, screwed couplings</td>
<td>450</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—50 feet lengths 2½&quot; hose, (Water Works Stock) screwed couplings</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—50 feet lengths 2½&quot; hose, (W. W. stock) odd thread</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total ... ... ... £1,600

Four hand pipes and nozzles,
Three double-ended stand pipes, screwed couplings.
One breeches piece, instantaneous couplings.
Two convertible pieces (male),
Two ... ... ... (female).
Four six feet ladders.
Two hose connection keys for screwed couplings.
Two valve keys.

X. **Operation.** Alarm signals will be given during the day by telephone when available, by police whistle, and by bugle alarm at the Police Barracks. During the night, as by day where possible, also by Verey Lights from:

- Government House.
- The Cantonments.
- The Ridge Police Guard-House.
- Victoriaborg Police Guard-House.
- Ussher Fort Police Guard.
- James Fort Lighthouse and Signal Station.

On the alarm being received the Chief Officer and the Motor Driver will at once get the fire lorry ready, so that, on arrival of the Police Members of the Brigade from the barracks there may be no delay in proceeding to the site of the fire.

**ESTIMATE OF COST.**

5. **Capital Expenditure.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Motor lorry specially fitted with 60 gallons chemical extinguisher and pump</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>£480</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Trailer</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Uniforms</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>£3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Fire equipment and boxes</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Sand buckets</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Extinguishers (two gallons)</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Verey Light guns and 50 cartridges</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 30 feet Hose-drying mast, complete with pulleys and lanyards</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garage and Stores</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>325</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

£1,500
ANNUALLY RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allowance to Chief Officer</td>
<td>£60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay for other Members, one drill per week and assuming two Fire calls say</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petrol and stores say</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hose renewals</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniforms</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extinguishers, lights and sundries say</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£350</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. A charge should be imposed on the owner or occupier of the property whenever the Brigade is called to assist in quelling an outbreak of fire however small.*

I have etc.,

C. W. PETTIT,

*Secretary for Works.*

THE HONOURABLE

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

VICTORIA BORG, ACCRA.

*The operation of this clause is to stand over for the present.
IV. 1920-1921.

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