

Old Fire Engines Go 'Like Hot Cakes'

FOR SALE: Old, rusty, superannuated fire engine. Hardly an alluring offer, one would think. Nevertheless, Sheffield Fire Brigade has sold two in the last couple of months.

Chief Fire Officer Mr. Stanley Lambert said today that circus folk formerly placed orders with the fire service for old engines, so that they could satisfy local authority regulations on their travels around the country.

But circuses were on the decline, and it was now the demolition contractor, the scrap merchant and the collector of vehicles for rallying who had taken their place.

From £100 to £150

The difficulty was getting a good enough offer - around £100 to £150. Said Mr. Lambert: "If I'm only offered £25 or £50, I'd rather take the vehicle to bits and sell it for scrap."

Each engine contained about three-quarters of a ton of valuable brass and phosphor-bronze, which was useful to a scrap merchant.

The demolition contractor wanted the engine for the pump itself, to get rid of water or sewage.

"We must try to get the highest price, because it's a question of ratepayers' money." Added Mr. Lambert