

Salute to City at Fire Brigade Centenary Celebration

By Bryan Dunthorne



FIREMEN in pairs, wearing uniforms from various stages of brigade history, form a guard of honour for guests at last night's dinner. The periods covered are (from left) 1920, 1860, 1750, 1840 and 1900.

A COCKNEY told an amused audience at Sheffield Town Hall last night that he did not need to be reminded of the importance of Sheffield, nor did they.

"You live here and know, so why should I presume to tell you about your; selves," said Mr. H. M. Smith, chief inspector of the Home Office Fire Inspectorate.

He was proposing the toast to Sheffield at the dinner given by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Aid, and Mrs. Dan O'Neill, to celebrate the centenary of Sheffield Fire Brigade.

"Lest I should tend to forget that importance, may I remind you that the permanent head of the Home Office is Sir Phillip Allen, a Sheffield, an assistant secretary is a Sheffielder, and they both had the good sense to marry charming Sheffield women.

"Then of course, at one time, I had that famous Sheffielder Bill Astbury as my deputy," he said.

Cigarette box

The Lord Mayor followed his example by saying that guests had come to enjoy themselves and he did not propose to stop them.

Mr. J. E. Temple, president of the Insurance Institute of Sheffield, proposed the fire brigade, and Ald., E. Scott, chairman of the engineering services, replied.

There was more humour when Mr. Stanley Lambert, Chief Fire Officer, presented the Lord

'Mayor with a silver cigarette box for the city for daily use in the Lord Mayor's parlour.

"I mean use, for despite out campaign against smoking and combustibile materials we don't want this buried in the vaults with all the other city silver," he said.

The gift was from the Fire Brigade Sports and Welfare Club as a' permanent memento of the occasion They also provided a table lighter for the personal home use of the Lady Mayoress and Lord Mayor.

Said Ald. O'Neill: "You bet it will be used, for the surgeon has told me that if I stop smoking it will only make five minutes difference to my life, and I intend to keep on smoking."



Thee Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield, Ald and Mrs Dan O'Neill, and the Sheffield Chief Fire Officer, Mr Stan Lambert, and Mrs Lambert.