

ing a merry at in honour of the event.

FIRE BRIGADE.—Shortly after a fire, which took place upon Mr. Hawkes' farm premises here, early in the year, a meritorious endeavour was made to form and equip a brigade, and to purchase a new fire engine, the existing engine being worn out and almost useless. At the instance of the brigade the following letter was addressed to some of the principal landowners in the district:—Deddington, May, 1883. Sir,—A volunteer fire brigade is being formed in Deddington, and the committee venture to appeal to you, as an owner of property in the district, for a donation towards providing a new engine and apparatus and the necessary equipments for the brigade, for which £100 is required. Deddington is the centre of a large number of villages, and the need for an efficient engine and brigade has long been felt. The Insurance Companies doing the principal business in the district have subscribed, although they consider the matter to be one entirely for the owners of property, it being always borne in mind that uninsured as well as insured property is at stake. After the first cost of establishment has been defrayed, the brigade, engine and hose will be maintained by a small rate, which the Watching and Lighting Committee have power to raise. Two meetings of the inhabitants have been held in Deddington, resulting in the enrolment for the brigade of the volunteers whose names are given below, and the donations mentioned in the list also subjoined. Farther donations will be thankfully received on behalf of the brigade, by your obedient servant, G. S. Hodges, captain. Members of the brigade:—Captain—G. S. Hodges; Lieutenant—J. Bennett; Engineer—A. Churchill; Sub-engineer—W. Green; Firemen—G. Beesley, D. M. Bennett, C. Course, W. Hawkes, C. Hopley, T. Smith, F. Sturch, A. Whetton. Donations already given from Deddington—Mr. W. H. Austin, £1 1s.; Rev. T. Boniface, 10s.; Rev. J. W. Betteridge, 2s. 6d.; Mr. T. Bennett, 5s.; Mr. P. Bull, 5s.; Mr. W. Churchill, 5s.; Mr. G. Coggins, 5s.; County Fire Insurance Co. (per Mr. Samman), £2 2s.; Mr. J. Course, 5s.; Mr. C. Duffell Faulkner, 10s.; Mr. H. R. Franklin, £1; Guardian Fire and Life Assurance Co. (per Mr. Kinch), £3 3s.; Mr. Gulliver, 10s.; Mr. J. Hands, 5s.; Mr. A. E. Hands, 5s.; Mrs. A. M. Harris, 5s.; Mr. S. Hawkes, 10s.; Mr. J. Hopcraft, 5s.; Mr. W. Kinch, £2 2s.; Law Fire Insurance Co. (per Mr. Kinch), £1 4s.; Mr. W. G. W. Lovell, £1; Mr. T. Petty, 5s.; Phenix Fire Insurance Co. (per Mr. Coggins), £2 2s.; Mr. H. C. Risley, £5; Mr. A. Samman, 5s.; Mr. J. Scroggs, 10s.; Mrs. Stilgoe, £1; Mr. Tucker, 5s.; Mr. E. W. Turner, £1 1s.; Mrs. Ward, 5s.; Mr. F. Ward, 5s.; Mr. T. H. Wells, 5s.; Mr. W. Welford, 5s.; As the result of this appeal, the following donations were kindly made:—Rev. G. E. Barnes, £1 1s.; Mr. C. M. Caldecott, £1; Miss Caldecott, £1 1s.; Mr. W. C. Cartwright, M.P., £2; Captain G. J. E. Dashwood, 10s.; Mr. W. M. Foster-Melliard, £1 1s.; New College, Oxford, £1 1s.; Mr. C. F. Simpson, £1 1s.; Mr. F. Stanton, £1 1s.; Mrs. Winter, 10s.; Mrs. Wilson, £1 1s. Owing, however, to the apparent lack of support on the part of most of the principal landowners in the district—a complaint which cannot often be made in this neighbourhood, and in relation to which it is only fair to say that the appeal has not been widely circulated—the effort to obtain subscriptions was suspended; sufficient monies had been contributed to properly equip the brigade, and leave in hand a small surplus towards the engine, but not sufficient to warrant the brigade in applying to the parish for a rate to enable them to make up the sum needed to purchase a new engine. This has prevented the brigade from assisting at two fires in the district; and on it being called out to the fire at Mr. Timis' farm at New Barn, Steeple Barton, a week ago, the want of an engine was seriously felt. Fortunately the Deddington brigade had been well drilled, and rendered good service in assisting the Woodstock brigade, and in working the Steeple Aston engine. We venture to hope that many people interested in property in this neighbourhood, under whose notice the laudable effort to obtain an engine at this convenient centre has not been brought, may now be induced to volunteer liberal contributions.