

The "Daily Independent" 28th May 1935

French Honour for Fire Chief Supt. Breaks Gets a Gold Medal

SUPT. T. BREAKS, chief of Sheffield Fire Brigade has been chosen as the next president of the Institution of Fire Engineers, the principal fire officers' association in the British Empire.

The present president is Mr. Bernard Westbrook, chief officer of the Fire Brigade at Calcutta.

In honour of Mr. Breaks' election, which is to take place next September, the Sheffield Watch Committee has invited the institution to hold its annual conference in Sheffield, and the offer has been accepted. This will take place in September.

Mr. Breaks has been a Member of the Institution since its inception about 12 years ago. Every principal officer of the big fire brigades throughout this country and the Dominions is also a member, including officers from Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Gold Medal

Simultaneously with the conferment of this offer Superintendent Breaks has been honoured by the National Office of Scientific and Industrial Research and Invention of France by being presented with its gold, medal and diploma.

The "Daily Independent" understands that the society wished to honour a British fire chief, and because of the work which Superintendent Breaks has done in Sheffield and because of his association with the French services the choice has fallen on him. He served with the French during the war and is a fluent French linguist.

The diploma has been sent to him by the French Republic Ministry of Public Instruction in Fine Arts. Mr. Breaks, of course, is a prolific inventor. He has devised systems for get fire engines away quickly; for electrically operating doors; for starting internal combustion engines by a system which means they are running when the firemen board them; and he has devised other modern equipment the use of which the Sheffield Fire Brigade now enjoys.