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organization and have examined all the papers in the matter. The chief, if not the only purpose originally in the minds of the organizers was the protection of the police pension fund from former members of the force ineligible to participate therein, who might hereafter seek to obtain a pension by special act of the Legislature. To an organization for this purpose the former Board of Police Commissioners gave its consent.

Since the organization, an attorney has been employed with an annual retainer of \$1,000, whose duties are designed to include the representation of the Association before the Legislature at its sessions every two years, so as to prevent the enactment of legislation placing unworthy persons upon the pension roll. The attorney is also to defend at trials before the Board police officers charged with offences when the directors of the Association shall deem such officers deserving of such assistance. At the conference referred to, there seemed to be some difference of opinion between the members of the organization as to whether the attorney should defend all cases worthy of defence in the opinion of the directors or only such cases in which a complaint against the officer originates with some citizen outside of the department. It finally developed that the officers of the Association were willing to limit the services of counsel to the latter class of cases.

The present Board of Police Commissioners is in complete sympathy with the members of the police force in their very natural desire to protect the pension fund from attack and to limit it to the members of the force who retire through disability after the term of service prescribed by law, or who are incapacitated for service from injuries received in the course of police duty. The Board will make it its particular business during any session of the Legislature occurring in its term of office to defeat any legislation tending to impair the pension fund or to divert it from the purposes for which it is now by law designed. It will keep in touch with all bills affecting the pension fund which may be introduced in the Legislature and will give notice of such bills on the daily lookout sheet to all members of the department. To that end it will personally appear before the Legislative Committees and if it shall appear necessary at the time will permit the appearance of a limited number of the members of the force. If in the haste of legislative action undesirable pensions may be granted all the facts of the particular case will be laid before the Governor of the State, so as if possible to secure his veto.

The Board desires to announce that it has made an arrangement with the National Marine Bank by which for the first time the police pension fund will bear interest at the rate of 3% per annum.

The Board is convinced that it would be extremely undesirable and unwise to permit members of the force charged with offences to be represented by counsel employed and paid by the Association. As heretofore, all members of the force charged with offences may employ counsel if the officers on trial believe such employment to be necessary or advisable. It is also within the power of the Board to defray the expenses of such counsel out of the funds in its possession in any case in which it may appear that an officer has been charged with an offence without justification, wherein it would be a hardship upon the officer to pay the expenses of an attorney. It may be added that the department records show that only a very small percentage of the trials originate with charges preferred by persons outside of the department.

It therefore appears that there is no necessity for the existence of the organization in order to carry out the chief purpose for which it was formed and the chief additional purpose which seems to have occurred to the organizers since the Association was formed.

On the other hand the Board is convinced that while the original purpose of the Association was entirely commendable, the possibility of evil consequences attending the operation of the Association in the future are very great. Because of the large size of the force and the large number of persons who are and will be members of the Association, and because of the impossibility of any large number of the members actively participating in the business that will be carried on, the affairs of the Association very naturally fall into the hands of a few men. While the officers and directors will be chosen by the Association at large, there will always be certain men more interested or more influential than others who will be able to a large extent to control it. It will be very easy for the Association to be diverted from its orig-