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FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 104: 1915 (WORLD WAR I)

By Richard Schulte

The nineteenth Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association was held at the Hotel Astor in New York City in May, 1915, amidst the backdrop of a war on the European Continent (World War I). The following is text of the "Report of the Canadian Committee" presented by the chairman of the Committee, John B. Laidlaw:

"REPORT OF THE CANADIAN COMMITTEE.

Your Canadian Committee have comparatively little to report at this meeting.

*It had been anticipated that considerable work would have been done in endeavor to increase the membership in Canada and to enthuse and assist those who are working for Fire Prevention in all parts of the Dominion. **Unfortunately, however, less than three months after your last meeting the great war broke out and Canadians have been engrossed with the incidents of the gigantic struggle going on in Europe.***

Your Committee did not arrange for any public meetings nor conduct an active propaganda during the past year, but are glad to report a continued growth in the Canadian Membership of the Association as follows: –

<i>May 1, 1912</i>	<i>248 members</i>
<i>May 1, 1913</i>	<i>286 "</i>
<i>May 1, 1914</i>	<i>315 "</i>
<i>March 23, 1915</i>	<i>354 "</i>

While the motto has been, "Business as Usual," there has necessarily been a great disturbance to almost all lines of business and manufacturing, and to many people have come very severe financial losses, from which it will be seen that the past few months have not afforded opportunity for any special fire prevention work nor a campaign for extension of membership of the N. F. P. A.

(The report was accepted.)"

The war pitted France, Great Britain and Russia against Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey. Since Canada was part of the British Empire, Canada was also involved in the war. The United States became involved in the war in 1917.

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Source: "*Proceedings of the Nineteenth Annual [NFPA] Meeting*", New York, New York, 1914.