

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 168: 1921 (NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE/AMERICAN ENGINEERING STANDARDS COMMITTEE)

By Richard Schulte

The 1920's were known as the "Roaring Twenties" and the rush into modern world was led by the use of electricity (and the automobile). Hence, the NFPA's National Electrical Code had an important role to play in the 1920's. The following is a transcript of the Report of Electrical Committee presented at the twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association held in 1921:

"Since the last annual meeting of the Association, the 1920 edition of the National Electrical Code has been issued. This, as for many years past, is printed and circulated by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, which thus makes a very substantial and much appreciated contribution to the effectiveness of the work of your Electrical Committee.

As was natural, plans for further revision of the Electrical Code were held in abeyance during the period just preceding and following the promulgation of the 1920 edition. In fact, it is not until recently that topics of more than minor importance have been brought to the attention of the Committee as requiring consideration for the next edition. The Committee has held no further general meetings but a meeting for planning future work will probably be held early in the Autumn.

By vote of the Executive Committee, the Electrical Committee submitted the 1920 edition of the National Electrical Code to the American Engineering Standards Committee for approval. After due consideration by a special committee and following the rules of procedure laid down, the American Engineering Standards Committee has formally approved the Code as an "American Standard."

The American Engineering Standards Committee represents a National organization representing the great engineering societies, departments of the United States Government, and numerous scientific and industrial organizations, for the purpose of securing uniform methods of arriving at engineering standards and to secure cooperation in engineering standards generally. It does not itself initiate or develop standards, but its approval indicates that a standard has been properly developed and is recognized as authoritative within its field. By approving the National Elec-

trical Code as an "American Standard" and giving it its highest form of endorsement as "American Standard." it extends to this most widely used engineering code a recognition which, we believe, is well deserved and which is, on the other hand, highly appreciated by the Electrical Committee itself and, we believe, by the National Fire Protection Association as a whole.

With reference to the proposition to develop a combined set of rules covering fire and accident hazards in the electrical field, we beg to advise that no decisive steps have as yet been taken. The Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce and the National Fire Protection Association have been appointed joint sponsors for such a combined code by the American Engineering Standards Committee. The proposal is strongly advocated by some and strongly opposed by others. A careful study of possible ways and means is now in progress.

The report was accepted."

The acceptance of the National Electrical Code as an American Standard by the American Engineering Standards Committee was just one more indication of the growing influence of the National Fire Protection Association in the every day life in America.

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