

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 172: 1921 (WOOD SHINGLES)

By Richard Schulte

Despite campaigns against the use of wood shingles, wood shingles continued to be utilized in building construction. The following excerpt from the Proceedings for the twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association held in San Francisco in 1921 addresses the use of wood shingles in the State of California:

“Professor Woolson: I offer the following resolution. (Reads):

Resolution

*WHEREAS, California has recently passed a new state-wide housing law that contains many new features in the public interest that make for the safety and protection of life and property, **paramount of which is the future prohibition of the nation's greatest fire and conflagration breeders—inflammable wooden roofs, and***

WHEREAS, the state and municipal officials of California are entitled to highest commendation for furthering this measure from all citizens interested in measures that are calculated to protect the public interest, therefore be it

*RESOLVED, that the National Fire Protection Association, assembled at its Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting, in the City of San Francisco, does hereby highly commend the Governor of California, the Members of the Legislature, the State and Municipal Officials of California and all the public spirited citizens and organizations that participated **in this great achievement.***

Professor Woolson: I want to state, for the benefit of all concerned, that the resolution refers simply and specifically to the wooden shingle roof construction. I have not had an opportunity to read the bill in its entirety, and whether this Association would endorse it as a whole or in other respects, I do not know.”

The fire danger of wood roof shingles had been known for years, but it took the State of California until 1921 to regulate the use of wood shingles.

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Source: "*Proceedings of the Twenty-fifth Annual [NFPA] Meeting*", San Francisco, California, 1921.