

**FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 228: 1910
(HENRY K. MILLER)**

By Richard Schulte

The fourteenth Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association was held in Chicago, Illinois in mid-May 1910. Among the topics of discussion at this meeting was the death of Henry K. Miller. The following is the transcript of the tribute to Mr. Miller:

“The Chair. Are there any further remarks on the Resolutions? If not, the motion is before you, and those in favor will manifest it by saying aye. It is so voted.

It becomes the sad duty of the Chair to officially and formally announce the death of one of the representatives of our active members, Mr. Henry K. Miller. Those of us who have known Mr. Miller as I have known him for the past eighteen or twenty years, can, to some extent, appreciate the loss that Mr. Miller's death makes in the ranks of the business with which he was connected. I think I can truthfully say that in all of the past twenty years, in which I have had a great many dealings with Mr. Miller, he never, either in the written or spoken word, said anything that one felt he could take offence at or criticise, however much there might be of difference of opinion on a subject. His manner was always pleasant, agreeable and diplomatic. It is certainly meet and fitting that this Association should place on record its appreciation of Mr. Miller, and to that end your Executive Committee appointed a special committee to draft resolutions, of which Mr. Hexamer is Chairman, and who will now report them. Mr. Hexamer.

Mr. Hexamer: *Mr. President and Gentlemen—Your committee beg to report the following preamble and resolutions:—*

**RESOLUTIONS ON THE DEATH OF
HENRY K. MILLER.**

Since the last meeting of this Association death has removed from our midst Henry K. Miller, who, up to the time of his passing away, was known to us as the General Agent of our active member, The National Board of Fire Underwriters. He died at his home in Netherwood, N. J., in January, 1910, in his sixty-sixth year, after an illness of five weeks.

Mr. Miller was born in London, England, in 1844. After being connected with the National Board for a brief period under the then Secretary, *Charles B. Whiting*, he resigned. Returning to its service, in 1872, he was elected Secretary to the Executive Committee at the end of that year. In 1899 he was made General Agent, which position he occupied until his death. Mr. Miller's connection with this Association as representative of the National Board commenced in 1900. *In 1905 he was elected a member of our Executive Committee.*

Those who were acquainted with Mr. Miller could not fail to be impressed with his earnestness of purpose, clearness of conception and happy faculty of doing and saying the right thing at the proper time. Chairman Babb, of the Executive Committee of the National Board, at a meeting held January 27, 1910, paid the following tribute to his memory:—

"Mr. Miller had been so long identified with the National Board and its work, and had so few other interests, that he had become the embodiment of the life, spirit and work of the Board. His mind was stored with the knowledge of the action of the Board and its Committees on all subjects that had received attention, and he was ever in a position to communicate such information, and offer valuable suggestions. In the preparation of reports, special letters and important papers, he was not only thorough and logical, but in addition, he exhibited literary ability of an unusually high order. One of the most unassuming of men he was a veritable genius in his official position. His loyalty to the Board was unbounded, and he was ever watchful to counsel against any action which would threaten to diminish or disaffect its membership. Mr. Miller was a human type of man, and had endeared himself to the individual members of the Board and to the staff serving under him. His passing from us is a personal loss and grief, as well as an irreparable loss to the National Board. We shall always remember him as an unassuming exemplar of fidelity, loyalty and satisfactory performance.

Your Committee desires to go on record as fully endorsing these appreciative statements, and offers the following resolution:—

Resolved, That in the death of Henry K. Miller the Association has lost one of its best friends, whose decease is the cause of sincere sorrow; and that the work in which we are engaged has lost one of its staunchest supporters, and one on whom we could always rely for assistance when required.

Resolved, That a copy of these preambles and resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and to our active member, The National Board of Fire Underwriters.

*Chas. A. Hexamer,
(Signed) Franklin H. Wentworth,
Special Committee on Resolutions.*

Mr. Wentworth: I move the adoption of this resolution by a rising vote.

Seconded by Mr. Cabot.

The Chair: It is moved and seconded that these resolutions be adopted by a rising vote. Those in favor of these resolutions will rise. Those opposed? It is a unanimous vote."

The tribute to Henry K. Miller presented at the NFPA meeting held in 1910 shows the close connection between the National Board of Fire Underwriters (NBFU) and the National Fire Protection Association at that point in time.

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Source: *"Proceedings of the Fourteenth Annual [NFPA] Meeting"*, Chicago, Illinois, 1910.

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Richard C. Schulte