

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 261: 1918 (THE ELECTRICAL CODE)

By Richard Schulte

The twenty-second Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association was held in Chicago in May 1918. Among the various topics discussed was the Electrical Code. The following is a transcript of the Report of Committee on the Electrical Code:

***The President:** We will open the session with a report of the Electrical Committee.*

***The Secretary:** I have a report from Mr. Cabot, former Chairman of the Electrical Committee, who has resigned.*

Report of Electrical Committee.

F. E. Cabot, Chairman.

Ralph Sweetland, Secretary.

R. C. Bird, W. H. Blood, Jr., William S. Boyd, George E. Bruen, W. J. Canada, J. E. Cole, Washington Devereux, J. C. Porsyth, C. M. Goddard, C. H. Hill, H. O. Lacount, C. H. Lum, C. W. Mitchell, Farley Osgood, F. Overbagh, A. M. Paddon, Wm. C. Peet, Dana Pierce, A. M. Schoen, Martin Schreiber, R. P. Strong, C. M. Tait, V. H. Tousley, H. S. Wynkoop.

*The Electrical Committee of the National Fire Protection Association met according to its usual custom in March, 1917. As most of those interested know, **the completion of the work was prevented by legal measures taken against the individual members of the committee**, and it was decided to adjourn the meeting until October, 1917, when a meeting was held lasting two days, and going over the subjects for the committee in a complete and satisfactory manner.*

The report of this meeting was promptly forwarded to the Executive Committee in accordance with their request, and a copy of the new rules prepared for the printer, but owing to various delays for which no one, so far as the writer can see, is particularly to blame, the issue of the new code has not yet taken place.

The various problems brought up by the legal action above referred to are, in the opinion of the writer, so complex as to require the most careful attention from your Association, and if, having retired from the committee, his opinion is of any value, he suggests that a meeting be called with the Executive Committee at which the secretaries of the committee, both present and past, be invited to attend in order that measures may be discussed for producing results which may be commensurate with those produced in the past, with a reasonable amount of work and without unnecessary friction with others.

*(Signed) F. E. Cabot,
Former Chairman.*

The report was accepted.”

It is assumed that the legal actions taken against members of the Electrical Code Committee were filed by manufacturers of electrical equipment adversely impacted by regulations included in the Code.

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Source: *“Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Annual [NFPA] Meeting”*, Chicago, Illinois, 1918.

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