

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 265: 1918 (F. E. CABOT)

By Richard Schulte

The twenty-second Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) was held in Chicago in May 1918. One of the topics of discussion at this meeting was the service to the NFPA provided by F. E. Cabot. The following is a transcript of the portion of the meeting honoring F. E. Cabot.

“Mr. Lacount:** I did not notice whether the Secretary announced the resignation of Mr. Cabot, who has been Chairman of the Committee, but I understand that he did. The acceptance of this resignation by the Executive Committee means that a very unusual and valuable service comes to a close, and **it seems entirely fitting that we should recognize the work which Mr. Cabot has done in connection with the development of the National Electrical Code**, which, as you know, has been for many years, and still is, the standard of electrical construction in this country and Canada. **I do not, in saying this, overlook the work he has also done in connection with our other committees, sometimes as chairman and sometimes as a member of such committees of the National Fire Protection Association. Speaking particularly of the electrical work, the Underwriters' National Electric Association started about 1893, about two years before the N. F. P. A., with Mr. Cabot as chairman, and during the twenty-five years since then, a full quarter of a century, he has continued in that office, which, as we think back, is a remarkable record.

Those who have worked with him and know him, I think I am safe in saying, will agree that he has never missed an annual committee meeting, at least I do not recall his absence from any. Those meetings have been of two, three and four days' duration; two days sometimes in executive session and the rest of the time in open meeting.

*He has had his difficulties and has faced them; **he has had his own opinions and ideas, and has not hesitated to tell the rest of us just what he thought; but in all of it he has been frank, he has been fearless, he has been honest--honest in his opinions and the courage of these opinions.** I think that we can agree that Mr. Cabot has always been "on the job," and without any camouflage. I am sorry Mr. Cabot is not here today, for I would like to tell him in behalf of his associates on the committees of this Association, "Mr. Cabot, well done!"*

Now that he is retiring from active service, at least so far as the electrical committee is concerned, it would seem that we would honor ourselves in honoring him by making him an honorary member of this Association. This proposition has already received the sanction of the Executive Committee, as is necessary under our constitution and by-laws, and because of my close association with Mr. Cabot, I esteem it a very considerable privilege to move you that Mr. F. E. Cabot be elected an honorary member of the National Fire Protection Association, and may I suggest a rising vote? (Applause.)

The President: *The Chair echoes all that Mr. Lacount has said in relation to the work of Mr. Cabot and the service he has performed for this Association, and I have pleasure in putting this motion that Mr. F. E. Cabot's name be added to the honor roll of this Association. Those in favor will please signify their assent by rising.*

The motion was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.”

Chairing the National Electrical Code Committee from its inception, and for a time period exceeding 25 years, was certainly an accomplishment which deserved to be acknowledged.

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

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