

# SCHULTE & ASSOCIATES

Building Code Consultants  
880D Forest Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60202  
fpeschulte@aol.com  
847/866-7479

## **FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 42: THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NFPA-1905 (THE NBFU BUILDING CODE)**

By Richard Schulte

Among the reports presented at the ninth annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association in 1905 was the report by the Committee on Fire Proof Construction. The following is the text of this Committee's report:

*"The President then called on Mr. F. E. Cabot, Chairman of the Committee on Fire-proof Construction, to report.*

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FIRE PROOF CONSTRUCTION.**

*F. E. Cabot, Chairman*

*W. P. Walsh,                      J. S. Sewell,                      F. J. T. Steward,                      H. Wilmerding.*

*Referring to our report rendered your last annual meeting and the discussion covering several of its features (See Proceedings Vol. 8 pages 103 to 129 inclusive), the amendments ordered by you were included in the rules and requirements proposed and corrected copy transmitted to the National Board of Fire Underwriters by the Secretary. **It was found that the National Board had in preparation by its Committee on Building Code a model for building ordinance for large cities, included in which were requirements for fire proof construction, which differed in two particulars from those adopted by us. The attention of our Executive Committee being called to this variance, it very wisely decided to withhold publication of our Standard until the National Board Committee could have opportunity to carefully reconsider the two points in question. We understand that one of these features has already been disposed of by that Committee and that the other is still under consideration. All of us, of course, recognize the necessity of having uniformity in all Standard rules and requirements put out under different covers by the National Board. We think it worthy of note, also, that two Committees working on the same subject along somewhat different lines should have arrived at conclusion so nearly identical.***

### ***The Baltimore Conflagration Report.***

*The first edition of our report on the Baltimore conflagration, amounting to two thousand copies, was disposed of early in the year, and a second and less expensive edition without the map, amounting to six thousand copies was issued in August. Of these latter 5,125 have been sold at approximately the cost of printing and mailing, it being judged wise to secure the distribution of the pamphlet at its cost to the Association rather than to attempt to sell it at a profit. The treasurer's statement showing a net cost to the Association of less than fifteen (\$15.00) in an undertaking involving the expenditure of nearly one thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400.00), indicated how this policy has been carried out. It should be borne in mind in this connection that each Association member received a single copy without charge and that 875 copies remain on hand which can be considered in the nature of an asset, as the demand for copies still continues.*

*The President. If there is no objection, the report will be received and printed in the proceedings and the Committee continued."*

**Source:** *Proceedings of the National Fire Protection Association, Volume 1904-1907*

From a technical standpoint, there is little of interest in the report above, however, what is of interest in this report is the reference to a model building code being developed by the National Board of Fire Underwriters (NBFU). The NBFU building code was the first model building code developed in the United States.

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