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FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 53: 1907 (ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NFPA/ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT)

By Richard Schulte

The 11th annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) was held in New York in late May, 1907. Following the President's address, the Executive Committee's report was presented. The following is the text of the Executive Committee's report:

"The President: The next on the program will be the report of the Executive Committee, Mr. Crosby, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mr. E. U. Crosby (Chairman): Mr. President and Gentlemen, the Executive Committee makes the following report:

During the year just past your Committee have found but few subjects warranting their attention, and we can report general, but uneventful, progress in the development of our work.

The President and Secretary have faithfully represented our interests as opportunity afforded, and we are glad to review our expression of appreciation of the work carried on by the various special committees, who, in the aggregate, render gratuitously a large and valuable service.

Special mention is again due to the Committee on Special Hazards and Fire Record, whose quarterly Bulletin appeals to our entire membership. The Chairman reports opportunities for further development of the Bulletin, and the possibility of widening its scope. In one feature alone of the Committee's work, viz., the study of the cause of fire in various classes of occupancy and development of statistics thereon, we believe a foundation has been laid of great value to those interested in fire prevention in such classes, and this foundation can be built upon each year as the experiences increase.

We have recently received a suggestion to consider the desirability of increasing the amount of fire prevention and protection information we lay before our members, as by means of an enlargement of the *Committees' or Secretary's Bulletin*, or by a new publication regularly issued. This suggestion will go over to the incoming Executive Committee with the thought that they will solicit expression from you as to the most useful scope of such work and most acceptable medium of promulgation.

There has been a steady growth in membership of the several classes, and we take pleasure in welcoming at this meeting the representatives of our new active members:

American Institute of Electrical Engineers, New York.

American Street and Interurban Railway Association, New York.

Indiana Inspection Bureau, Indianapolis, Ind.

International Association of Fire Engineers, Roanoke, Va.

Kansas Fire Insurance Inspection Office, Topeka, Kas.

Mississippi Inspection and Advisory Rating Co., Vicksburg, Miss.

National Association of Master Sheet Metal Workers of the United States, Philadelphia, Pa.

Nebraska Fire Insurance Inspection Bureau, Omaha, Neb.

Tennessee Inspection Bureau, Nashville, Tenn.

Our New York home is this fine building, reported upon a year ago, has now become a pleasant reality. Here our members will find ample convenience for a New York headquarters; their mail can be forwarded here; small and large committee rooms are available; a full set of supplies and National Fire Protection Association literature will be kept on hand in our new fireproof files, and Mr. Hugh T. Wreaks, with title of Assistant Secretary, has been appointed in charged [charge] of this New York office.

Without doubt, we have all wished that the publication of the National Fire Protection Association on the San Francisco earthquake and conflagration should be accurate, comprehensive and fully up to the standard set by our report on the Baltimore conflagration. *To that end, Mr. W. C. Robinson, of the Underwriters' Laboratories, spent twelve weeks among the ruins, and has been engaged since in compiling additional data and checking and proving his calculations.* He contemplates a final visit to the coast early in June.

We feel you prefer a report which will stand for all time as an authentic book of record on this subject. The work is of a magnitude exceeding our original estimate, but we wish to report progress and the belief that we shall be able to issue a completed report before long.

Amended specifications for fire doors, shutters, and wired glass windows are to come before you at this meeting. This is an important subject on which we should be a unit, and we appeal to you to lend us your best help that we may at this time reconcile any differences of opinion and evolve a proper standard without further delay.

Respectfully submitted,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The President. Gentlemen, you have heard the report of the Executive Committee. What is your pleasure? A motion to receive the report will be in order.

It is moved and seconded that the report be received and placed on file; carried unanimously and so ordered.”

Source: *Proceedings of the National Fire Protection Association, 1907-1908*

Of special interest in the Executive Committee’s report is the reference to the NFPA quarterly Bulletin. Excerpts from the Bulletin will appear in future parts in this series on Fire Protection History.

Also of interest is the reference to the investigation of the San Francisco earthquake and fire.

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