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FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 55: 1908 (TWELFTH ANNUAL NFPA MEETING- VICE-PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS)

By Richard Schulte

The twelfth annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) was held in Chicago on May 26th, 27th and 28th, 1908. The meeting typically opens with the president's address, however, at this meeting, the vice president of the Association, William Anderson, opened the meeting with a brief address. The text of Vice-President Anderson's address was as follows:

"The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association was convened at the appointed hour in the Assembly Room of the Chicago Board of Underwriters, twelfth floor, National Life Building, Chicago, with the membership well represented.

Owing to the illness of the President, Mr. W. W. Dudley, the convention was called to order by the Vice-President, Mr. Wm. A. Anderson.

The Chair: The hour for the meeting having arrived, the Secretary will call the roll of members.

ADDRESS OF VICE-PRESIDENT WM. A. ANDERSON.

Gentlemen – I know that you all agree with me that a dark shadow hangs over the opening of our present gathering, owing to the inability of our respected President to be with us upon this platform on this occasion; but if you will be patient and overlook any lack of full knowledge of parliamentary rules, I will do my best to preside impartially over your deliberations at this our Twelfth Annual Meeting.

The reports of the Executive Committee, Secretary and Treasurer will give you full details of the work done by our Association during the past year. As presiding officer, I hereby extend to all present a cordial welcome, with hearty greetings to the official delegates and active members, and solicit from them such aid and assistance in our deliberations as their knowledge and experience fully qualifies them to give.

Our aim, as you know, is to ascertain by careful study and tests, and to prove to our members and to the public that better construction, improved fire protection, the elimination of causes of fires, and the most efficient methods of controlling and extinguishing same, are as much and even more to the interest of the public than of the underwriters.

At the last annual meeting of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, held on the fourteenth instant, it was strongly evidenced that the work done by this Association, also by the Underwriters' Laboratories and the Committee of Consulting Engineers, is fully approved and appreciated by said Board, and it must be our aim to prove that we are fully worthy of the confidence reposed in us.

It will be provided by reports to follow that our membership shows a steady and healthy growth. I trust that this meeting will be productive of good results. (Applause.)

We will now proceed with the regular order of business.

Next in order is the report of the Executive Committee."

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

The Vice-President's address was really just a brief welcome to the Association members attending the meeting, however, the address included a concise statement as to the purpose of the organization. This statement was followed by resolutions outlining the purpose and goals of the Association shortly thereafter.

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