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## **FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 57: 1908 (TWELFTH ANNUAL NFPA MEETING/ SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS)**

By Richard Schulte

Following the Vice-President's address and the Executive Committee's report at the twelfth annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a report by a special committee of the Association was presented. The following is the text of this report:

### **“REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.**

*Mr. H. L. Phillips: Mr. President and Gentlemen – At the meeting of your Executive Committee last evening reference was made to the **continued heavy fire waste and the loss of life by fire during the past year**, and a special committee was appointed to draft resolutions upon these subjects. This committee now begs leave to report as follows:*

*The National Fire Protection Association representing all of the National Institutes, Societies, and Underwriting Organizations in the United States which has thus far evidenced their interest in the protection of life and property against loss by fire through joining its effort for the general good, has its attention called at this, its Twelfth Annual Meeting, to **the disasters by fire which have occurred during the past year, involving a great sacrifice of life and an enormous fire waste, as illustrated by the Collingwood School, Boyertown Theater, and Chelsea and Atlanta conflagrations.***

*These, following the previous experience at Baltimore and San Francisco, again serve to emphasize the apparent disregard on the part of the general public, resulting in the loss of hundreds of lives annually and a fire waste of almost a million dollars for every business day.*

***It is believed that the time has properly arrived when adequate laws, federal, state and municipal, should be enacted and enforced in such manner as will unquestionably check the enormous inroads upon the material resources of our country.***

*Therefore, the National Fire Protection Association, in convention assembled, unanimously places itself on record as believing:*

*First. That a practical means for the conservation of the natural resources our country is to be found in the restriction of the destruction of property by fire.*

*Second. That state legislation, where not now existing, should be enacted at an early date, enabling communities to make proper provision for the supervision and control of building construction and installation of adequate fire protection and prevention measures.*

*Third. That communities already authorized to enact building laws should give their earnest attention to such revision of present ordinances and adoption of new measures as experience as demonstrated to be necessary and advisable.*

*Fourth. That buildings where people congregates, such as schools, colleges, theaters, hospitals, asylums, churches, department stores, and the like, are peculiarly susceptible to calamitous conditions, and should receive the particular attention of the recognized authorities in the insistence upon superior construction and the introduction of apparatus for the automatic extinguishment of fires. (Applause.)*

*Mr. Phillips: Mr. President, I move the adoption of the resolutions just read.*

*Mr. Alfred Stone: Mr. President, I second the motion, and in doing so I would like to emphasize one particular point, that of the first recommendation. I suggest that immediate steps be taken to have this sentiment spread throughout the country by means of the Associated Press, that it may appear in the newspapers everywhere. There is nothing more important than that the cities and states should be informed of this action of the convention. In my own city we have been trying for years to secure reasonable and proper building laws, but the matter is now pigeonholed by a committee of the municipal government, and this condition exists in many places. I trust we will not be content simply to have this read in this convention, and that steps may be taken to send it broadcast over the country.*

*Motion carried unanimously.*

*The Chair: We will now hear the report of the Secretary, Mr. Merrill."*

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

The resolutions adopted by the NFPA at its annual meeting held in 1908 need no further elaboration.

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