

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 84: 1913 (AN OPINION ON SPRINKLER PROTECTION)

By Richard Schulte

The second paper presented on the topic of building construction at the National Fire Prevention Convention held in Philadelphia in 1913 also included an opinion on sprinkler protection. This paper titled "The Life Hazard in Building Construction" authored by John Price Jackson, Commissioner of Labor and Industry of Pennsylvania, included the following excerpt:

"Belief in the value of the automatic sprinkler has been making great strides in this country. This belief is founded upon the excellent basis of experience. Where sprinklers have been installed properly they serve the purpose of inspiring confidence in the workers, thus making them less liable to panic, of putting out fires, of slowing the progress of fires, and of cooling the atmosphere where fires are in progress. The installation of sprinkler systems is a most excellent fire insurance obtained at a low cost, and it is not unreasonable to insist that in all places where there is a serious fire hazard to numbers of human beings such apparatus be installed. It is well to emphasize as strongly as possible the high regard in which this department holds properly installed sprinkler systems and the wisdom of their installation in places where they can serve the purposes above named. The fact that insurance experts make exceptionally low rates where sprinklers are installed is excellent testimony in their behalf."

Once again, sprinkler protection receives an endorsement at the 1913 National Fire Prevention Convention.

Source: "Official Record of the First American National Fire Prevention Convention", Powell Evans, Editor, pages 74 and 75, 1914.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=bwIOAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=inauthor:%22American+National+Fire+Prevention+Convention.+1st,+Philadelphia,+1913%22&hl=en&sa=X&ei=-RnLUJqkFefdyAGkxoHwBw&ved=0CD4Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false>

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