

## FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 96: 1915 (PIPE FITTINGS)

By Richard Schulte

The nineteenth Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association was held in New York City in May 1915. Among the Technical Committees reporting at this meeting was the Committee on Standardization of Pipe and Pipe Fittings. The Chairman of the Committee, Chas. A. Olson, presented the Committee Report. The following is an excerpt from Mr. Olson's presentation:

*"The Committee has no definite recommendations to make at this time beyond registering the conclusion that **no screwed fittings larger than six inches should be considered, all fittings larger than six inches being flanged.***

*At the second meeting of the Committee it was voted that the Committee request the Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, the National Board of Fire Underwriters and the Bureau of Standards, U. S., to co-operate in joint tests of sprinkler fittings **with the object of determining friction loss.** By the aid of these tests, this Committee expects to determine whether or not it shall recommend the adoption of the American Standard which has already been adopted by the **Committee of Manufacturers on Standardization of Fittings and Valves and the Master Hot Water and Steam Fitters Association and recommended by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.***

*Subsequent to the meetings of this Committee, a committee of manufacturers was appointed on standardization of fittings and valves for the purpose of co-operating in the work of the N. F. P. A. Committee. **It is obvious that the work assigned to this Committee is an important one and that considerable advantage will result from the manufacture of all fittings to uniform dimension, so that the product of one manufacturer shall be readily interchangeable with the product of any other.** This result accomplished, the minimum of time will be lost in the replacing of fittings where an automatic sprinkler or standpipe system is injured or otherwise out of order. The matter of strength of fittings is also an important item. **Cast iron fittings have been criticised as not possessed of sufficient strength to assure stability in connection with sprinkler systems.** A number of important cases were reported in which the breakage of cast-iron fittings had occurred which emphasized not only the importance of interchangeable fittings available at all times, but also the advisability of having such fittings of proper metal and thickness.*

*The work of the Committee will be put forward during the current year with the hope that a complete report may be offered for consideration of the Association at its next annual meeting.*”

The work of standardization begins.

\* \* \* \* \*

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