

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 97: 1914 (FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS)

By Richard Schulte

The Report of Committee on State Fire Prevention Associations presented at the eighteenth Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association held in 1914 included a discussion of utilizing schools to teach children the basics of fire prevention. The following is an excerpt from the Report addressing this issue:

“Many workers in the Fire Prevention Associations regard the education of school children on fire hazards as the most important task we have to perform. They are doubtless correct in their attitude, though, of course, viewing the subject with a far vision. This movement has become popular, so that it is now carrying with its own momentum, though it was a distinct Fire Prevention Association activity in its inception. The Louisiana Association has recently tried a new and very advanced method school work. They not only address the high school boys, but they also take them out, in squads of two, to make the inspections with the inspectors. However, one need of this work is yet to be filled. There is no authoritative publication available for schools which wish to include the lessons in their curriculum. The material for such a pamphlet is readily at hand, as we have members of the Association who have given much thought and effort to this very task. This need should be provided without further delay, and I recommend that this Association proceed to the preparation of such a pamphlet, in simple, elementary form, which can be used as a model by states which desire to publish such a book for use in their schools.”

Given the requirements to hold fire drills in our schools, it also seems to make sense to devote a little time to educating our children on some of the basics of fire prevention.

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