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FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 17: 5TH ANNUAL NFPA MEETING-1901 (WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR. WARREN)

By Richard Schulte

The fifth annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) was held in Chicago in June 1901. Following the President's address at the meeting, Mr. W. S. Warren addressed the meeting with a brief welcoming speech. The following is the text of Mr. Warren's speech:

“ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY MR. W. S. WARREN.

*Mr. President, if it is not out of order, I would like to say just a few words in the way of a greeting to you and to the members of the Association who have assembled here this morning. And this greeting comes from the city of Chicago and it comes from the underwriting interests of what we call the **Western Union**. We are greatly pleased that you decided to come here and that we are to have the benefit of being able to listen to the deliberations of your body. **It is unnecessary for me to say, Mr. President, that the enormous loss record of the country is engaging the most earnest and serious consideration of all underwriters; and we believe, gentlemen, that you are on the road, and the correct road, toward the solving of many of the problems which are before us, and we look to you to give us that information which comes from scientific investigation and study.** I do not wish to interfere with your deliberations, but I did want to say that we welcome you most heartily to Chicago and hope that your stay here will be most agreeable and profitable to all of you. [Applause.]*

The President. I am sure I voice the unanimous opinion of our members in thanking Mr. Warren for his kind greeting. The report of the Executive Committee is next in order, and will be presented by Captain Stratton, the Chairman of the Committee.”

With the fire at the Iroquois Theater (Chicago, 1903), the Great Baltimore fire (1904) and the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire (1906) looming in the not too distant future, once again we see a reference to the serious “fire problem” in the United States in Mr. Warren's welcoming address at the NFPA meeting.

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