

British Columbia Fire Underwriters Association

It will be noted with regret that owing to ill health, Mr. W. L. Foster, secretary of the B. C. F.U.A. has resigned the secretaryship of the association acting upon the advice of his doctor. At time of going to press, his successor has not been appointed.

The Three Great Essentials in Rodding Buildings

In rodding buildings for lightning protection three essentials are necessary to get the best results.

The first essential is, all exterior metals such as rain pipes, crestings, and tin decks should have metallic connection to the rod. The interior metals are not ordinarily as important but if a water pipe system or any other pipe system enters the house the rod should by all means have metallic connection to such system where they enter the building. The means by which this connection is made is usually immaterial if under ground. The object of these connections is to prevent electro static sparking between metals and also to insure better earth connection at the metallic pipes in the soil.

A branch from the lightning rod should extend to points within an inch or less of where the telephone enters the building, but should not touch the telephone wires, as contact would destroy the telephone service. In event of a lightning discharge anywhere on the telephone line, a spark would take place there, but such short spark could scarcely do any harm where there is nothing more combustible than wood, yet such part could not be allowed with safety through very inflammable material.

The second essential in rodding buildings is the proper arrangement of sharp points at gable ends, chimneys and cupolas.

There is something wonderfully interesting in the action of sharp points when the earth's electrical field is getting ready to discharge through a lightning rod but it is difficult to explain. If your eyes were big enough so you could see the air you would enjoy a revelation and the explanation would be simple enough. You would see the air to be composed of small grains called molecules.

If eight hundred cubic feet of these air molecules were compressed into one cubic foot and cooled enough you would have a cubic foot of liquid air but in the gaseous form these molecules have plenty of room and they continually fly around and joggle each other at a tremendous rate.

The third essential in rodding a building is the manner of its ground connections and while this essential is quite important it is not so important as the other two. In some localities it is nearly impossible to get an orthodox grounding, but the building can be protected without it if the other two essentials are faithfully performed.

If a building was on solid rock and a metallic girdle nailed to the building at the solid rock then rod the building properly otherwise and attach it to this encompassing metallic girdle that building would be safe from lightning damage.

A good grounding, however, should always be made where it is possible for the points work better and the lightning is not so wicked.

A good rule of practice is to ground ten or twelve feet deep when possible and when impossible it is well to bury abundance of any old metal in the soil in connection with the ground rod. This is frequently necessary in some sections of the country especially in mountainous regions and stony soil.

The most important thing by far in getting the best results in lightning protection for the home and barn is the intelligence of the man who engineers the work. It is a scientific proposition and should never be entrusted to a charlatan.

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