

Suggestions.

be taken to guard against accidents from fire, but as architects and builders—in designing and erecting structures—seldom give themselves much concern in this matter unless required to do so by law, and as city and town authorities are not always sufficiently informed in what is actually needed for the proper protection of life and property, I may mention a few matters, which in the public interests, ought to receive special attention in almost every community.

1. A carefully prepared act relating to the construction and alteration of buildings, containing stringent rules by which the constructors of all buildings, intended for public purposes, or for occupation by large numbers of people, can be compelled to arrange and build the stairways, passages, doors and windows in such a way as to afford the best possible protection against accidents to the inmates.

2. In connection with the above, the appointment of a skilled and competent person as Inspector, to see that the laws are properly enforced, and whose special duty it should be to examine most critically all flues, fire-places, heating apparatus, stove-pipes, and other minor matters which may be considered dangerous; with the power to enforce such alterations to be made, as he may deem necessary for the public security.

3. If there is a public water supply every effort should be made to control and check the waste of water, as this waste is productive of no good purpose whatever, and in all cases leads to the loss of pressure for fire and other purposes.

4. In connection with the foregoing rule, the enforcement of rigid laws,—relating to the inspection of internal plumbing work, the class of water-pipes and fittings which will be allowed, and the placing of these pipes and fittings—is necessary.

5. The fire force, especially if a volunteer one, should receive every consideration and aid which it is practicable to afford to it. It should, of course, as far as possible, consist of trained, able-bodied and resolute men, and it is not in the interests of the public, or conducive to the public safety to cut down the grants or allowances to the department to the lowest possible figure.

6. The fire department, besides being possessed of the most modern and best appliances with which similar bodies elsewhere are usually furnished, should have every facility offered them for reaching a fire in the shortest possible space of time, and in addition should carry with them such ropes and lifesaving apparatus as can be conveniently handled and operated by the men of the force.

Respectfully submitted,

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