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National Fire Protection Association Annual

**Electricity a Frequent Cause of Fire — Further Investigation of Grain
Dust Explosions Urged — Five New Chapters of Association Formed, and
Membership Shows Large Gain — Fire Underwriters' Uniformity Association**

THE twenty-fourth annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association was held in Chicago, May 4th to 6th. Only a few Canadians were present. The membership of the association made a gain of over twenty-five per cent. last year; the number of new associate members secured was 1,095, or considerably more than the objective of 1,000. The reports of the officers showed a rapid increase in expenses, and it was agreed unanimously that the annual dues be increased from \$30 to \$60 per year in the case of active members, and from \$6 to \$10 in the case of associate members.

F. J. T. Stewart, president, in the course of his address, said:—

"In addressing you at the last annual meeting, it was pointed out that our neighborly enemy—fire—might still be expected to wage war upon us. This, of course, you may say was only to be expected. However, it might interest you to know that recently this neighborly enemy has actually advanced his lines to the extent that the fire loss has been higher during the past few months. This seems to bear out the opinion expressed last year that our sense of patriotism had carried us so far in guarding against the occurrence of fire as to result in a moderate loss during the war period, when an abnormally high loss was greatly to be feared, and even expected. On the other hand, we now hear general criticism of the extent to which we have reacted and become careless in many ways, such as reckless spending and the like. The state of mind indicated by such conditions might logically be expected to result in a corresponding relaxation in our anxiety to prevent fires which has been reflected in an increased loss during recent months. The ground which we have lost, however, should only serve as a timely warning that relaxation is dangerous, and that we must plan to offset the advance of our friendly enemy—fire. I am convinced that we were only saved from an abnormal fire loss during the time we were at war by the great patriotic impulses of our people, their attention having been called to the necessity of preventing fires to win the war. I further believe that if we may expect to hold in check the fire loss in years to come, that appeals for fire prevention must have some relation and be more or less associated with an appeal for patriotism and loyalty to our form of government as opposed to radicalism of the kind that has recently come to our attention."

Mr. Stewart pointed out the prevalence of fires due to electricity, and urged greater carefulness in the installation and use of electrical appliances. Continuing, he said: "You may be interested to know that plans for an American standards organization, referred to at some length last year, have taken definite shape, the scope of the American Engineering Standards Committee having been already broadened along the lines which I then described. Our organization is already co-operating. The importance of the work of our special committees having to do with the preparation of standards is thereby increased."

Reports and Resolutions

Resolutions, embodying the declaration of principles previously set forth by the association, were adopted. W. E. Mallalieu, general manager of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, presented a resolution urging Congress to make an appropriation to continue the investigation of grain dust explosions which has been carried on by the Department of Agriculture.

The report of the treasurer showed receipts for the year of \$34,778, of which \$23,978 was for membership dues. Franklin H. Wentworth, the secretary, reported that five new chapters are in operation: Spokane, Seattle and Tacoma, Wash.; Portland, Ore., and San Francisco, Cal.; and two more are in prospect—Los Angeles, Cal., and Salt Lake City, Utah. The membership, as of May 1st, was reported at 135, a gain of eight, and associate membership 4,224, a gain of 1,095 for the fiscal year. A number of technical reports were presented and discussed. The delegates attended the first showing of the new three-reel fire prevention motion picture, "America's Greatest Crime," produced by the Ince studios at Los Angeles.

Among the active members reporting on their fire prevention work during the year were the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association, the Motion Picture Industry Association, the American Gas Association, the American Institute of Architects, and the National Association of Insurance Agents.

Prominent men present were W. E. Mallalieu, general manager of the National Board of Fire Underwriters; O. B. Ryon, general counsel of the National Board; Prof. Ira Woolson, Columbia University; John G. Gamber, State Fire Marshal of Illinois; Capt. Conway, Cincinnati Fire Prevention Bureau; J. C. McDonnell, chief of the Chicago Fire Prevention Bureau; Rudolph P. Miller, of the New York Building Department; John H. Kenney, of Baltimore; Gorham Dana, Boston; I. G. Hoagland, of the Automatic Sprinkler Association; Edward R. Hardy, of the New York Board; W. H. Merrill, Jr., president of the Underwriters' Laboratories; H. O. Lacount, of the Associated Factory Mutuals, and representatives of the various boards, bureaus and state inspection offices.

Uniformity Association Meeting

The Fire Underwriters' Uniformity Association held its annual meeting on Monday in Chicago, preceding the National Fire Protection Association gathering. A uniform sprinklered risk report was adopted as a result of several years' work. Madison F. Welch, of the National Liberty at Chicago, delivered an address on "Aviation Insurance." Officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: President, John H. Kenney, Baltimore; vice-president, William S. Boyd, Chicago; secretary-treasurer, Charles H. Patton, Cleveland.