

Panama Exposition and Fire Loss

CREDIT TO WHOM CREDIT IS DUE

Deserving of unstinted praise are the builders in San Francisco. Within a space of three years six hundred and twenty-five acres of unimproved land has been transformed into a city of palaces with growing gardens, flowers, paved thoroughfares, fountains and all the various features which enter into the dreams of artists. Of this large space over sixty-four acres is devoted to the main Exhibition buildings, erected from the plans of our best architects, in a most practical and thorough manner. To prevent casualties due to weakness in construction or inflammable material the greatest of care was taken in the erection of each individual structure. Equal credit is due the engineers and designers. In preparing the site the problem was to remove the water from the submerged surface at Harbor view and replace it with soil. Over 200,000 yards of reclaimed area was finally covered with eight inches of dirt brought from all parts of California. To the architectural profession is due the charming atmosphere which permeates the entire display. Never in the history of world fairs has there been such a living, fascinating mosaic of color. The first view is enchanting, the last a memory, wherein the law of color harmony will live through its wonderful portrayal. And to pass unnoticed the landscape architects who furnished the harmonious setting for this city of color would mean a slight to those who have made the tout ensemble a marvelous work of art. Changing from the golden hue of pansies and daffodils to the scarlet tints of tulips and azaleas and then to begonias and so on until the Father of Time closes the gate, the millions who are privileged to enjoy this realization of Spanish castles, cannot help but feel that even the far famed glories of the Babylonian Hanging Gardens have been surpassed.

PREVENTION OF FIRE LOSS

The work of the National Fire Protection Association in educating the people to the irretrievable losses due to fires, is highly commendable. It is unquestionably due to their united effort that the recent damages effected by fire have been the lowest for many years. Their educational campaign more than warrants a continuance of the work and the broad ideas advocated during a recent session will reduce still more the enormous loss to Canada. These measures, if adhered to, will allow labor and capital to enter new fields of development instead of being used to restore the needless waste. The points enacted by the association

are given herewith: 1. The encouragement of fire-resistive building construction through the adoption of improved building codes by all states, cities and towns; the inclusion in such codes of adequate rules for exit facilities based on the occupancy for all buildings, and the general recognition of the fact that although fire-resistive construction is of the greatest possible importance, it is of itself not sufficient. The lesson of the greatest factory fire of the year is that large industrial buildings, even if built of cement and steel, must be subdivided by fire walls and must have adequate means of stopping fires in their incipency. 2. The adoption of laws or ordinances requiring the installation of automatic sprinkler systems as fire extinguishing agents in all factories, commercial establishments and city blocks. The adoption of ordinances requiring the construction of fire division walls not only as a property protection device but as providing the best life-saving exit facility. 3. The establishment by law of a Fire Marshal in every state, who shall not be a mere political office holder, but a trained man with trained assistants competent to direct the work as statistician, educator and prosecutor. 4. The investigation of the cause of all fires by public officials, and the enactment of laws fixing personal liability for damage resulting from fires due to carelessness or neglect. 5. The consolidation of all legal forces so as to provide for the systematic inspection of all buildings by local firemen, and technically trained building and factory inspectors so as to insure the vigorous enforcement of rules for cleanliness, good housekeeping, and the maintenance of safe and unobstructed exits, fire-fighting apparatus and other protective devices. 6. The especial safeguarding of schools, theatres, factories and all other places in which numbers of people congregate or are employed. 7. The vigorous state and municipal regulation of the transportation, storage and use of all inflammable liquids and explosives. 8. A careful study of municipal water supplies, their adequacy and reliability with special reference to their adequacy in case of conflagrations. 9. The universal adoption and use of the safety match. 10. The education of children and the public generally in careful habits regarding the use of fire. It is felt that Industrial Canada brings forth the right appeal when it states that Canadians could not do better than make this a fire prevention year and, by education and co-operation, try to forward the important task of reducing the appalling destruction which annually falls upon life and property in this country.