

# International Association of Fire Engineers

**Many Canadians Attend Large Convention in Toronto—President Kenlon of New York Suddenly Resigns—Manual on Fire Fighting Presented—Adequate Fire Fighting Force Necessary to Efficiency**

**F**OR the third time within two years a large international body engaged in fire preventive work held its annual convention in Canada, when the International Association of Fire Engineers met in Toronto, July 26-29. The meeting was scheduled to close on July 30, but business was completed on Thursday. In May, 1919, the National Fire Protection Association met in Ottawa, and last August the Fire Marshals' Association of North America held its convention in Toronto. While all three organizations are mainly American, they include many Canadians in their membership, the work of the National Fire Protection Association, especially, being international in scope. Once before, in 1894, the International Association of Fire Engineers met in Canada, in Montreal.

About 2,000 fire chiefs and other members attended the Toronto meeting this week, a special train bringing the delegates from New York and the surrounding district. Special features were the exhibits of fire fighting apparatus at the Canadian National Exhibition grounds, Toronto, where the meetings were held.

## President Resigns

The president, Fire Chief Kenlon, of New York, resigned immediately upon his arrival in Toronto, because of the fact that the executive committee supported Fire Chief William Russell, of Toronto, who had charge of local arrangements, in his selection of an officiating clergyman not favoured by Chief Kenlon. The resignation was accepted by a vote of the delegates. It is understood that differences in policy, which arose between the president and the executive during the past year, are really responsible for the resignation of the former. The vice-president, Chief Healy, of Denver, Col., presided in place of Chief Kenlon. The other members of the executive committee are: Second vice-president, Chief Reynolds, of Augusta, Ga.; acting secretary, Chief Hoey, of New York; treasurer, Chief Carter, of Camden, N.J.; Chief Bywater, of Salt Lake City, Utah; Chief Magee, of Dallas, Texas; and Chief Armstrong, of Kingston, Ont.

Pumping engines operating without any hydrant pressure were demonstrated on the water-front. Among the companies exhibiting engines were Seagraves, Republic, American La France, Ahren-Fox and White's. Chemical extinguishers, smoke masks, waggons, hose, life saving devices and other apparatus for use by fire departments and by private concerns were shown in a building set aside for this class of exhibits.

## Manual on Fire Fighting

Advance sections of a new manual on firefighting in all its phases were distributed to the visiting fire chiefs. These sections, which are in the form of pamphlets, deal with, among other topics, the "Uses of Automatic Sprinkler Equipment," "Fires in Theatres," "Factory Buildings," "Oil Fires," "Fires in Frame Tenements," "Fires in Department Stores," "Fires in Non-Fireproof Tenements, Flats and Apartment Houses." They are the work of various committees appointed for the purpose by the association. When completed, the entire work will fill a volume, and will be almost encyclopaedic in its scope. A paragraph from the pamphlet on apartment house fires advises the firemen, in cases where illuminating gas is escaping, not to extinguish the gas flame with streams of water, but to wet the woodwork in its vicinity and take necessary measures to cut off the flow of gas. Otherwise, the escaping gas may cause a bad explosion or injure the firemen who inhale it.

After the registration of delegates on Monday morning, a welcome to Toronto was extended by Mayor T. L. Church.

Chief S. Boyd, of Knoxville, Tenn., replied. Chief Kenlon, in presenting his resignation, stated that there was too much criticism from outside as to how fire departments should be run. He thought that the convention should adopt some definite policy of running a department, and be in a position to say to civic authorities that this policy had been approved by the fire chiefs of the continent. He thought the report presented by Chief Healy of Denver, vice-president, on this subject, went too far in attempting to establish hard and fast ordinances, because different cities had varying conditions.

## Business Sessions

Chief Healy, in this report on organization, the first presented at the business sessions, which commenced on Monday afternoon, advised the appointment of a fire commissioner to have full charge of the department and to be answerable only to the mayor. Drastic by-law in connection with rules to be observed by the citizens, and the authority of the chief over his subordinates while a fire is in progress, are proposed in the report.

Fire Chief Wm. H. Murphy, of Philadelphia, read a report on the "Organization and Strength of Companies." Too many defects are due, he maintained, to the undermanning of fire departments, which should always have, after allowing for absences, a sufficient staff. The strength necessary for an average mercantile district, where there is a considerable life hazard, he defined as follows: For a combination pump and hose wagon, 8 men; automobile pump and hose wagon, 9 men; tractorized steamer and hose wagon, 10 men; hose company, 8 men; high-pressure hose wagon, 11 men; engine company, capable of operating two streams, 7 men, with extra drivers for hose wagon or other auxiliaries; truck company, serving 3 engine companies and to provide life-saving and other service, 9 men; chemical company, 5 men; water tower company, 5 men; fire boat company, 15 men; rescue squad, 11 men.

## Other Reports Presented

The third report was by Fire Chief Howard Stanton, of Norwich, Conn., on Fire Department Engineering. This was followed by one on Drill Schools, Drills and Training, by Chief John C. Moran, of Hartford, Conn., who went into the best methods of handling a fire fighting unit. These four reports were followed by six others, which it was decided should be taken as read, and referred back to the committees to be taken up and passed upon at the next convention. The reports were as follows: Discussion of Fire Manual, by Deputy Chief Thos. F. Dougherty, New York; Building Inspection by Uniformed Members of Fire Departments, by Captain John J. Conway, Cincinnati, Ohio; Membership, by Chief Hugo R. Delfs, Lansing, Mich.; Location, Design and Construction of Apparatus Houses, by Chief Frank G. Reynolds, Augusta, Ga.; Rules, Regulations and Discipline, by Chief Charles W. Ringer, Minneapolis, Minn.; Water Supply, High Pressure System, Operation of High Pressure Streams, by Chief A. Emrich, of Baltimore, Md.

The membership of the association shows a substantial increase for the year. The number registered at the convention was as follows: Old active members 283; new active members 129; old associate members 93; new associate members 115. This made a total of 620 registered, but there were a considerable number of delegates present who did not register. The total present was estimated at 700. About 25 Canadians were present, including the fire chiefs of the distant cities of Halifax and Vancouver. Most of these had