

prominently featuring their suspicion and even opinion that each important fire was due to the design of an enemy, undoubtedly had a deterring effect on fires due to both carelessness and design.

We cannot, however, expect the effect of all this to be permanent, unless we make a special effort to keep up the interest which is apparently aroused. A few items may be cited which indicate that this is already being done. The fire prevention inspections and educational work done by the fire insurance companies and their field men under the direction of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, will be continued, although it was originally undertaken as a war emergency work.

"The local fire insurance agents throughout the country are fully alive to the unusual opportunity which they have in dealing directly with the owners of practically every property, whether it be in the home or in the factory. Through their organization, the National Association of Insurance Agents (member of the National Fire Protection Association), they have pledged themselves to a fire prevention campaign, both by inspections and circulation of literature.

"We have recently been encouraged to believe that the influence of women in an organized way may be made available both locally and nationally to assist in interesting the individual in fire prevention. We will hear more on this point later in our program from one of the women. In addition to these items there are other encouraging signs which one might dwell upon—and then there are the Canadians. The impending results of their enthusiasm and energy we contemplate with confidence.

"I have not referred to any of the so-called discouraging conditions. The fact is, there can be no conditions answering that description, as long as we are unwilling to be discouraged. Let us therefore keep shouting with the optimist that 'Business is fine,' and it just cannot help but be so. Convince the laggard in fire prevention that he is out of step with the others, and a lonely feeling will soon drive him to get the careful habit. We will never get anywhere by making people believe that nobody cares how many preventable fires occur.

"It is the painful duty of the president to point out to you each year that we need more funds. Some day, perhaps, we will have a president who will regret to report a large accumulated surplus in the treasury; he, at least, should be ashamed of it. We do need more money, as much as ever, but when we think how little the great game of waging war has interfered with our financial status, I again line up with the optimist and say: 'We have much to be thankful for, and more to hope for.' When I recall how we marvel each year at the results accomplished by our efficient and enthusiastic secretary-treasurer, Mr. Wentworth, I wonder if some might not feel that nothing is impossible for him, so why worry over a difference of a few dollars. My thanks and appreciation are extended to the members and committees for their excellent co-operation during the year."

#### Executive Committee's Report

The report of the executive committee was then received, in part, as follows:—

"Two regular meetings of the committee were held during the year, in June and January, for consideration of matters referred by the association and other business affecting the welfare of our organization. The resignation of Chairman H. L. Phillips, in the middle of the year, received with sincere regret by his associates, resulted in the appointment, under the articles of association, of the present chairman, by the executives, for the balance of the term.

"The invitation from officials of the Canadian government to meet this year in Canada, presented with such persuasive eloquence by the chairman of our Canadian committee, Mr. Laidlaw, was accepted by the executives without a dissenting vote. This Ottawa meeting represents the second departure from the long-established custom of meeting on alternate years in Chicago and New York, the first occasion being the meeting of 1917 in Washington on invitation of the Bureau of Standards, U.S.A. The executives express the hope that the policy adopted in the case of these two meetings meets

with the general approval of the members, so that should other desirable opportunities offer for meetings outside of New York and Chicago; there may be no hesitancy in their favorable consideration.

"The executives again gave consideration to the matter of the joint observance of fire and accident prevention day, in co-operation with the National Safety Council, which plan has now been carried out for several years by a special committee of the association. Certain members, whose opinion we respect, have been inclined to fear that the effectiveness of our propaganda in the observance of this day may be impaired by including consideration of accidents. The committee has, however, so far felt, that both activities may be helped by intelligent and friendly co-operation. The principal industries of the United States and Canada are rapidly establishing safety and welfare departments, and under these department managements fire safety falls as naturally as the safeguarding of other hazards. It has been felt that the future will justify the present broad policy of the association in this important matter."

#### Resolutions Submitted

Resolutions as follows had been prepared by the executive committee and were referred to the committee on resolutions:—

"The National Fire Protection Association, assembled in Ottawa for its twenty-third annual meeting, bespeaks the continued observance by the people of the United States and Canada, both privately and in their occupations, of the measures for conservation of our resources adopted for the war emergency. The supreme need of the war-impooverished European world for foodstuffs and the products of North America, imposes an obligation upon us to safeguard to the extent of our intelligence and ability every form of natural and created resource. The elimination of waste, at all times the duty of good citizenship, is at this moment our profoundest public and private responsibility.

"In its warfare against the needless sacrifice of human lives and property by fire the association advocates the following measures:—

"1. The adoption by municipalities of the standard building code of the National Board of Fire Underwriters to the end that fire-resistive building construction may be encouraged, the use of inflammable roof coverings prohibited, adequate exit facilities from buildings assured, and interiors so designed and fire-stopped as to make easy the extinguishment of fires therein.

"2. The adoption by all states and provinces of minimum building requirements for the protection of state, provincial and county hospitals, schools, asylums and similar institutions outside city limits and of small communities in which the establishment and enforcement of a building code is impracticable.

"3. The enactment by each state and province of the fire marshal law advocated by the Fire Marshals' Association of North America to the end that official investigation may be made of the causes of all fires, preventable fires may be eliminated by public education, and the crime of arson stamped out.

"4. The adoption of the association's ordinances providing for the systematic inspection of all buildings by city fire marshals or local firemen 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.

"5. The enactment of ordinances fixing the cost of extinguishing preventable fires upon citizens disregarding fire prevention orders, and a more general legal recognition of the common law principle of personal liability for damage resulting from fires due to carelessness or neglect.

"6. The wider general use of the automatic sprinkler as a fire extinguishing agent and life saver and the more general adoption of the fire division wall as an important life-saving exit facility.

"7. A careful study of the technical surveys of cities made by the engineers of the committee on fire prevention of