SCHULTE & ASSOCIATES
Building Code Consultants
3500 Creighton Road, K5
Pensacola, FL 32504
fpeschulte@aol.com
847.312.7617

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 136: 1906 (HERSEY MANUFACTURING COMPANY)

By Richard Schulte

Another technical committee reporting at the tenth Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association was the Committee on Private Fire Supplies From Public Mains. The Committee, chaired by E. V. French, presented the following Report of Committee at this meeting:

> "*The history of the year is one simply of progress along the lines laid down by the report of a year ago, and in general, the relations which have existed between water departments and insurance men have been satisfactory, showing again the benefit of the co-operation which has been so well inaugurated.*
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> *The Hersey Manufacturing Company, Boston, Mass., report that they have built about fifty of the detector devices which were fully described in our report of last year. These, they state, have given universal satisfaction, and those which have come under our own observation have done the work for which they are intended in an acceptable manner.*
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> *The meter designed by the inspection department of the Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies was further perfected during last summer, and a complete description of it was presented to the New England Water Works Association at their annual convention in September. The fact that photographs and actual results from a meter already built could be shown gave the water works men positive information that we were earnestly studying this problem, and this has proved a valuable means of showing our strong intention to work together on this problem until a thoroughly satisfactory solution to water works officials, underwriters and owners is reached. Following the water works meeting a few details were perfected and a number of 6-inch meters are now being built which it is expected will be put into service during the coming summer. Designs have also been blocked out for larger sizes, which as soon as possible will be built.*

The experience of the year has further shown the desirability of encouraging in nearly all places the separation of piping used to carry water for manufacturing purposes from the fire system. Such separation not only makes the metering problem easier, but is much better from the fire standpoint. Where the mill supply is drawn from the fire pipes, and where considerable quantities of water are used the result is likely to be when a fire starts that a considerable percentage of the capacity of the fire pump will be wasted through the ordinary mill connections, especially in cases where the fire pump pressure would be considerably higher than the normal public water pressure, so that as soon as the fire pump started it would close the check valves in the public connections, thus putting the whole duty on to the fire pump.

We can say little further other than to urge that the whole problem be studied along these general lines, and with our actions in the main in accordance with the suggestions fully outlined in the report of last year."

Of course, the valve being discussed above is today known as the detector check valve.

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Source: "*Proceedings of the Tenth Annual* [NFPA] *Meeting*", Chicago, Illinois, 1906.