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## **FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 31: THE BRITISH FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE/ EDWIN O. SACHS (1897)**

By Richard Schulte

The British Fire Prevention Committee organization was formed in 1897, one year after the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) was formed. The publications of the British Fire Prevention Committee (BFPC) were referred to as “Red Books”.

The following is an excerpt from what appears to be the first publication of the BFPC:

*“Our annual loss of property by fire is enormous; several statisticians place the amount of this loss in the British Isles at £7,000,000 per annum; and yet very little has been done to lessen this waste. Our annual death-roll is also serious; nevertheless, no effective remedy has yet been introduced. One of the reasons for this state of affairs is that but few appreciate the full meaning of fire protection as practised so successfully by several nations whose increasing prosperity is to some extent, due to the sound economy insisted upon in all directions. The minimising of fire losses will, however, soon have to become an important factor in the work of our communities, for many are tiring of the constant havoc wrought by fire. Before, however, we can hope to reform this state of things, it is necessary to appreciate fully the question: What is Fire Protection? . . .*

*EDWIN O. SACHS.*

*London,  
November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1897”*

Many of the British Fire Prevention Committee Red Books have been digitized by Google and can be viewed on the internet. The Red Books make for quite interesting reading.

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