National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors Organizes

Detroit Meeting Fills Long-Felt Need for Permanent National Body of Boiler Inspectors

JOSEPH F. SCOTT
Chairman

C. O. MEYERS
Secretary-Treasurer

The first annual meeting of the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors brought together at the Hotel Statler in Detroit on Feb. 2, 3 and 4 about sixty people, including members of the Board itself, of the Boiler Code Committee of the A. S. M. E. and others interested.

The meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning by Chairman Joseph F. Scott, of New Jersey, who announced its purposes in a brief introductory address. In the absence of the mayor, Police Commissioner Dr. James W. Inches welcomed the visitors to the city.

The entire first day was devoted to the hearing of addresses. Dr. D. S. Jacobus, acting chairman of the A. S. M. E. Boiler Code Committee, told of the genesis and development of the Code, emphasizing the fact that no action had been taken without consideration of all the interests involved, and nothing had been adopted in either the Code or the interpretations from which any member of the committee dissented. The methods of the Boiler Code Committee were described and its interest in the new organization expressed.

Charles E. Gorton, chairman of the American Uniform Boiler Law Society, told of the appointment by Col. E. D. Meiers, when president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, of the first Boiler Code Committee, how the society had reached the limit of its functions in the formulation and interpretation of the Code, and how the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors had been organized at the instigation of the American Uniform Boiler Law Society. He told of seeing on his recent trip to the Coast a boiler with the stamps of 22 different states on it, which absurd practice, now not uncommon, would be avoided by the facilities and simple procedure offered by the organization of the National Board.

C. W. Bissell, dean of the Michigan Agricultural College and chairman of the Michigan Board of Boiler Rules, spoke of the advantages of interchange of opinions between members of boiler boards and the necessity for the rigid enforcement of rules adopted by such boards.

J. C. McCabe, commissioner of the City of Detroit, and Chief Inspector of Boilers for the State of Michigan, treated of the qualifications and duties of boiler inspectors.

E. R. Fish, vice president of the Heine Safety Boiler Co., explained still further the advantage of having a single stamp for boilers constructed in accordance with the Code. S. F. Jeter, chief engineer of the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co., spoke on the advantages of uniform qualifications for boiler inspectors. F. W. Herenden, secretary of the National Boiler and Radiator Manufacturers Association, stated the attitude of that industry toward the new Board and the Code to be sympathetic so long as they did not demand inspection for low-pressure heating boilers, and Fred R. Low, editor of Power, outlined some of the possibilities, opportunities and responsibilities before the National Board. Wednesday evening was devoted to an informal discussion of the plan and scope of the Board.

All day Thursday the members of the Board attended the meeting and took part in the deliberations of the Boiler Code Committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

This meeting was held at Detroit instead of, as usual, at the headquarters of the society in New York, to give the committee the advantage of meeting and counseling with these men from all over the country who are enforcing the Code. The range of application and the wide field from which the experience in the administration of the Code placed at the service of the committee was drawn, may be appreciated from the following list of the inspectors present:


Thursday evening the Board members entertained their guests at a banquet.

Friday the speeches and discussions of the preceding days crystallized into a definite plan of action adopted by the Board in the following constitution and by-laws:

PREAMBLE

The National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors is organized for the purpose of promoting greater safety to life and property by securing concerted action and maintaining uniformity in the construction, installation and inspection of steam boilers and other pressure vessels and their appurtenances, and to secure interchangeability between political subdivisions of the United States.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1

Section 1. Name: This organization shall be known as The National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

ARTICLE 2

Section 1. Objects: To promote uniform boiler laws and rules throughout the jurisdiction of its members;
To secure uniform approval of specific designs of boilers and other pressure vessels as well as appurtenances and devices used in connection with their safe operation;
To promote one uniform code of rules and one standard stamp to be placed upon all boilers constructed in accordance with the requirements of that code, and one standard of qualifications and examinations for inspectors who are to enforce the requirements of said code; and
To compile official statistics and other data.

1Past member.
2In place of William A. Marshall.
3Non-members.
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTORS
Excepting the Delaware member, not yet appointed, and the St. Joseph member, who did not send a photograph.
ARTICLE 3
Section 1. Membership: The membership of this Board shall be restricted to the Chief Inspector, or the official carrying out the enforcement of inspection regulations by any political subdivision of the United States that has adopted any of the codes of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Section 2. Such membership shall terminate when such Chief Inspector or other official ceases to be employed by such political subdivision, or when such political subdivision shall no longer accept any of the codes of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Section 3. Honorary Members: Any person who renders distinguished service in the promotion of public safety by the procurement of uniform regulations and laws may be elected to honorary membership by the unanimous vote of the Board at a regular meeting.

Section 4. Associate Members: Any person who is concerned in the making or selling of books, papers, records and other documents of this Board, shall at the option of such member, be placed on the roll as an associate member. Annual dues for associate members shall be five dollars.

Section 5. Certificates of Membership: The Executive Committee of the Board shall provide suitable certificates for the various grades of membership in the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

ARTICLE 4
Section 1. Officers: The officers of this Board shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary-Treasurer and a Statistician.

Section 2. Election of Officers: Such officers shall be elected at a regular meeting by a majority ballot, and shall hold office for the period of two years, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 3. Officers shall be elected from the membership of this Board, except that the Secretary-Treasurer and Statistician shall be a present or past member.

ARTICLE 5
Section 1. Duties of Officers: Chairman—It shall be the duty of the Chairman to preside at all meetings; preserve order during its deliberations; to appoint all committees; and to sign all records and other documents used in connection with the work of this Board.

Section 2. Vice-Chairman—The Vice-Chairman shall perform all the duties of the Chairman in the event of his absence or disability and in case of the resignation or death of the Chairman shall perform all the duties of that office until such vacancy is filled by an election as herein provided.

Section 3. Secretary-Treasurer—The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the custodian of all books, papers, records and other documents of this Board; he shall receive and have charge of all fees and other monies, and shall pay all bills; he shall keep the minutes of all meetings; and shall keep a full and accurate record of all receipts and disbursements; he shall conduct all correspondence pertaining to his office; he shall compile statistics and other data as may be required for the use of the members; and shall perform such other duties as this Board may from time to time designate. In the event of his resignation or death the Secretary-Treasurer becoming vacant before the expiration of the term for which he was elected, the Executive Committee shall appoint a successor for the unexpired term.

Section 4. Statistician—The Statistician shall procure and keep in record such statistics as may be required by or useful to the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 6
Section 1. Committees: There shall be an Executive Committee, consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer and Statistician, which shall, between regular meetings, carry into effect any and all matters pertaining to the welfare of the Board.

Section 2. There shall also be the following standing committees:
1st. On specific designs of boilers and other pressure vessels and appurtenances and devices used in connection with their safe operation;
upon completion by an inspector who has qualified in accordance
with the requirements of Art. 3 of these By-Laws.

Section 3. Data Reports: The manufacturer of each steam boiler, when
approved by the Board, unless he has a certificate of competency as well as a commission authorizing
him to do so as hereinbefore provided.

Section 2. Certificates of Competency: A certificate of competency
shall be issued by the political subdivision con-
ducting the examination in accordance with the rules formulated by
the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

Section 3. Commission: The holder of a certificate of competency issued as herein provided who desires to
make inspections in accordance with the requirements of these
By-Laws shall make application to the National Board for a
commission authorizing him to do so.

OFFICERS ELECTED

Joseph F. Scott, of New Jersey was continued as chair-
man and C. O. Myers of Ohio as secretary-treasurer. R. L.
Hemingway of California was elected vice chairman in
place of James Neil, who has left the inspection service
for the Bureau of Mines, and William E. Murray of Seattle,
Wash., to the newly created office of statistician. Charles
E. Gorton, chairman of the American Uniform Boiler Law
Society, and F. R. Low, editor of Power, were elected
honorary members. Votes of thanks were passed in
favor of both Mr. Gorton and Mr. Low.

Briquetting Anthracite

In a report read before the American Society of Heating
and Ventilating Engineers at the recent Philadelphia meet-
ing, J. H. Kennedy, of Lykens, Pa., stated that the
briquetting industry has been going on in Europe for over
fifty years, that it has been developed more rapidly and
successfully in Germany than in any other country, and
that it is estimated that England was shipping to Italy alone
over three million tons of briquets a year.

Briquetting in the United States has been gradually
growing, although many ventures into this field have failed.
There are three principal reasons for these failures: First,
a briquet sold in this country must be as good as, if not
better than, coal, while this is not the case in Europe;
second, most of the machinery used has been (at least the
types) brought from Europe to be used under entirely
different circumstances without proper modifications to
meet the new conditions; third, poor management and the
lack of provision of the necessary capital for a period of
experience which almost invariably is necessary. Never-
theless, the industry is growing, as the net tonnage
increased gradually from 66,524 in 1907 to 256,635 in 1914,
after which, for reasons with which we are all familiar, the
output dropped somewhat for the next year, but
recovered until it reached a total in 1918 of 477,235 tons.

A briquet must stand tests to prove that it is (1) hard
and tough so as to withstand shipment; (2) able to with-
stand the attack of the elements, especially water and heat;
(3) able to retain its shape while burning; (4) not likely to
produce any smoke or undesirable odor while burning.
The following materials have been tried as binders under
the supervision of the Bureau of Mines: Rosin, pine tar,
sulphite liquor, starch, tars, magnesia, magnesia cement,
plaster of paris, portland cement, water glass and slag
cement.

Mr. Kennedy said that in his own work he used what is
commonly called the "water binder," which is made of

water 200 gal., Globe pearl starch 140 lb. and asphaltum 35
lb. The binder is mixed with the culm by means of a
split-screw conveyor which conveys it to a press consisting
simply of two rolls 40 in. in diameter running in opposite
directions. The rolls are cut so as to align exactly as the rolls
revolve. The material is fed into the pockets and squeezed into shape between the rolls.
A pressure of approximately 10,000 lb. per square inch is
required for a good briquet. This varies unless a constant
feed is maintained as the face of the rolls must be kept
hard in. From the press the briquets are conveyed to a
drier. This particular kind of briquet is intended for house-
hold use and shows the following analysis: Moisture, 1.16
per cent; volatile matter, 13.16 per cent; carbon, 78; ash,
10.10; sulphur, 0.64; B.t.u., 14,090; crushing strength, 250
lb. The ash produced by briquets is very fine, almost a
powder, and must be handled with care. This is the one
undesirable feature so far found, but is easily overcome and
far outweighed by its advantages.

Publicity Conference To Be
Held in Chicago

A Publicity Conference is to be held at the Congress
Hotel, Chicago, on Feb. 25 by the American Association of
Engineers. There will be a small program, but papers will be
read by the following men: F. M. Peiker, vice-president of
the McGraw-Hill Co., Inc.; John G. D. Mack, state chief
engineer of Wisconsin; W. W. DeBerard, Western editor of
Engineering News-Record, Chicago; William J. H. Strong,
head of the Lake Breeze Motor Co., Chicago; C. R. Thomas,
in charge of publication of results, Forest Products Labora-
tory, Madison, Wis.; Ivy L. Lee, publicity director of the

Among the subjects that are on the tentative program are the
following: "Technical News Service—Is a National Clipping Service Practicable?" "Publicity Possibilities in
Magazines and Other Mediums"; "News versus Publicity";
"Will Publicity Pay as a Career?" "How Publicity Helps a
Community"; "Effective Methods of Publicity Education on
Engineering Publications"; "The Essentials of News Writing";
"How Publicity Helps the Local Society"; "The Engineer
as a Public Speaker."

N. E. L. A. Convention To Be
Held in Chicago

Chicago has been selected as the meeting place for the
forty-fourth convention of the National Electric Light
Association. Headquarters will be at the new Drake Hotel,
overlooking Lake Michigan, and considered one of the
most modern hotels in the United States. The convention
will begin its sessions on the morning of May 31 and will end
on June 3.

The choice of Chicago was the result of very careful
consideration of a number of other available cities. Hot Springs,
Arkansas, being looked upon with especial favor. Chicago
was finally decided upon, however, because of its accessible
location, as it was felt that under present business condi-
tions the delegates would find it necessary to keep in close
touch with their own affairs during the week of the
convention.

Welding Committees To Confer

In accordance with an invitation extended by the Council
of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the
American Society of Refrigerating Engineers has appointed
a committee to confer with the subcommittee of the Boiler
Code Committee on Welding of the A. S. M. E. regarding
rules now in the Code and in proposing and formulating
any revisions or new rules that may be embodied in the
Code at the next revision period. The committee so
appointed by the A. S. R. E. is as follows: Louis Dooling,
New York, N. Y., chairman; E. F. Miller, Cambridge, Mass.;
Fred Ophuls, New York City; Norman M. Small, Wayne-
boro, Pa.; and Harry Sloan, Milwaukee, Wis.