

Why not definitely centre all responsibility for fire prevention in one authority?

(Extract from Civic Survey Report)

"The City Council should create a Fire Prevention Commission, to be composed of the Chief of the Fire Department, the City Architect, the Property Commissioner and at least two private citizens.

This Commission should establish a set of rules and regulations upon the subject of fire prevention. Householders should be circularized from time to time and their attention called to common practices which increase the danger of fire.

The Fire Department and the Fire Prevention Commission should solicit the co-operation of all civic agencies of Toronto. By-laws should be adopted giving full power to the members of this Commission or their legal representatives to enforce preventive measures, and these powers should be especially broad. They should have power to:

1. Inspect any building, structure, vessel, place or premises;
2. Remedy any condition found in violation of any law or by-laws in respect to fires or the prevention of fires;
3. Require the installation of automatic fire alarm systems, fire extinguishment equipment and adequate and safe means of exit;
4. Require to be vacated any building or structure which is inadequately protected against fire; or abate such nuisance by compelling the owner to place the building in a condition of safety;
5. Require regular and periodic fire drills in factories, stores, schools, hospitals and asylums.

EFFECTIVE CITIZEN CO-OPERATION

WHAT IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS SHOULD
BE EACH BODY'S BUSINESS

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What is Everybody's Business IS Nobody's Business

"Just what is it that is none of your business? Any wrong you can right, or that you can help resist, or aid in exposing, becomes, if you do nothing a wrong that subsists on your support. When one man submits to an imposition he ensures that it will be practised on others."—*Toronto Press*

Re Fire Escapes on the Woodbine Hotel

Inspector of Buildings (City Architect) "did not care to give an opinion as to whether the fire escape was sufficient, but said it was open at any time for the License Commissioner or the Fire Chief to have demanded that additions be made."—*Toronto Press.*

The Fire Chief "had no jurisdiction over fire escapes of hotels. The matter of escapes on shops and factories was under the Provincial Department, while the Licensing Board governed the hotels."
—*Toronto Press.*

The License Commissioners (Provincial) say that the initial responsibility for construction and fire escapes lies with the City Architect but that the Commissioners can refuse a license after the erection of the hotel.

The Issuer of Licenses, at the City Hall, states that his department is not responsible for the licensing of hotels; but does issue licenses to moving picture shows, theatres, etc.

Acting City Architect Price said "There was too much division of authority in the matter of inspecting fire escapes, and that this should all be done under one department."—*Toronto Press.*