I

Chosen President of “Boston Safety Society” — Meeting Yesterday.

A “Boston Safety Society” has been organized for the promotion of industrial safety among factory workers in Boston and generally throughout the State. President MacAurin has been chosen to head the new society, and many other prominent men are honorary vice-presidents.

The formation of this society is a part of the popular “Safety First” campaign inaugurated by the Boston Chamber of Commerce last summer, and was suggested by the Chamber’s committee as serving to cover the cooperative efforts of employers and employees, the important field of accident prevention in manufacturing plants and industrial corporations which could not be reached by the public campaign.

The first meeting of the new society was held last evening at Faneuil Hall. President MacAurin gave the address which is printed below:

The eyes of the world are fixed today on the war in Europe. Here in America we are appalled by its inhumanity and the terrible economic waste that it involves. Its dramatic humanity and the terrible economic aspects make war a very large proportion. From 1 to 3 times more than two million of our workers killed every year by accidents we have a prominence which is discreditable. What are we to do about it? The only thing that can be suggested is to organize and carry on a very large educational campaign. This readiness has its fine aspect, and leads to good in many ways, but has its faults. One of these outs is the great cost of needlessly suffering and loss that it imposes on the whole man of the country. The statistics of Germany seem to show that the problem is about two parts worker and one part employer. In other words, that there are about twice as many accidents that happen through the carelessness of the worker as through the neglect of proper safeguards on the part of the employer. In this country we are poorly supplied with statistics on such matters, but such as we have seem to show that the proportion is about to three or four. We are told that the proportion is about two to one, that the problem is about two parts worker and one part employer.

More important still, we must educate the worker to think of his own safety. What we are initiating is a campaign of education everywhere. This is not an hysterical reform movement such as often follows a big accident and rapidly dies out, but a steady, serious, sane effort to arouse the whole community, employer, worker, ultimate consumer, all of whom bear their share of the loss, and all must be brought to believe that every avoidable accident is a crime.


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