

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

P R O C E E D I N G S

of the

First Meeting

of the

STEERING SUBCOMMITTEE,

ASSOCIATE COMMITTEE ON ASBESTOS

Held in Montreal, September 12, 1936,

Present: Dr. G. S. Whitby, chairman
Capt. J. G. Ross
Mr. C. H. Shoemaker
Mr. D. Wolochow, secretary.

1. Organization

Officers were elected as indicated above.

2. General

Captain Ross stated that the condition of the market had undergone a radical change so that there was now a very heavy demand for almost all grades of fibre. To meet this situation an effort must be made to reduce the number of grades and to improve processes so as to increase production. In the last few years the quality of the asbestos has in general been improved, so that many grades contained twice the value they had five years ago. Further improvement in the treatment of rock and of fibre was however essential to meet present and prospective demands. It was admitted that the present methods and equipment were as a rule deleterious in their effects on fibre, but the more urgent problem was the development of a really efficient method of opening fibre which has already been separated from the rock. The difficulty lay in the fact that fibre spicules became entangled in the mass and were therefore difficult to reach. The present methods used throughout the industry were therefore too harsh in their action. Greatest returns would be obtained from improvements in this field.