PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

MET-89

Dust

DUST [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

MARCH - 1936

EXHIBIT 262



02509

Mr. Morton Judd: 1931

Enclosure comment to conclusions and recommendations of the Survey of Asbestos Division of Asbestos - Manhattan - Bridgeport and Stratford Plants by Industrial Health Section, Metropolitan Insurance Company.

Conclusions and Recommendations - Bridgeport Plant

All of the dust counts in this plant show less than ten million particles per cubic feet of air sampled. While these counts are not considered as dangerous concentrations, they are much higher than on the previous survey made in 1920, with the exception of those in the warp room. All but four of the looms have been moved to different locations since the first survey. A check of the records would show a comparison of the type of yarn used and rate of production at the time of the two surveys.

Sample #1[illegible], taken at the inspection table on the second floor shows the highest count. The concentration at this point could be decreased materially by the proper exhaust equipment. The present system is not designed properly to take care of the dust generated.

COMMENT:

The correction of this hazard is of a mechanical procedure and I feel should be taken up by someone who is capable of designing and constructing a larger and more appropriate exhaust equipment.

Sample #34 shows the presence of lead. This amount is not considered dangerous, but it would be advisable to have the workmen at these looms examined periodically for any signs of lead poisoning. The only sample in the Braid Department showing lead was sample #29. This is not considered a dangerous amount, but does indicate that there is a potential hazard present.

COMMENT:

As lead is a slow accumulating poison and is detected early in the blood cells, it is advisable to arrange some course of procedure that at certain periods throughout the year men who have been exposed to lead compounds shall be examined for its early presence. As the amount present is not considered dangerous, the ones that would be discovered absorbing the toxin no doubt, would be those that are predisposed to poisoning by small amounts. In this way, we would be cautioned and be able to check the men to see just how compatible they are to the presence of lead.

[illegible]

02503

Conclusions and Recommendations - Stratford Plant

Sample #6 taken at the fibre opener shows a high dust count. This is accounted for by the method of handling the fibre and not the opener itself. The fibre is dumped from bags onto the floor and then shoveled into the opener. The fibre is carried to a hopper above and then falls through a pipe into a trunk which is located about six feet from the opener. The operator stands between the opener and the trunk and shovels the fibre into the opener at the same time that it is falling into the trunk. The dust concentration at this point could be decreased by the proper handling of the fibre.

COMMENT:

This matter should be taken up with the foreman of the department to see if he cannot arrange to have some form of an enclosure placed over the units of this processure, so as, the dust would not fly about the rest of the room. The man or men those handling the fibre could be equipped with gas masks of some form to prevent them from inhaling the contaminated air and thus pre-dispose them to some form of pneumonokoniosis.

Samples #2, 3 and 4 show that there is lead present in the air at these points. While these samples do not show a dangerous amount, it would be well if the workmen engaged at these places were examined periodically for signs of lead poisoning. Notice was taken at the time of this survey of the method of handling litharge. This material is handled carelessly as it can be found lying on the floor in the room where it is weighed and around the mixers.

COMMENT:

It would be well to educate the foreman so as he could impress the men of the possibilities of the dangers of the material handled and in this way they would be more cautious. Emphasise should be made in describing the early symptoms of lead poisoning and the men should be assured that the little exposure to which they are in contact with is not dangerous if they are careful about their work.

Blood examination should be adopted with these individuals as a precautionary measure.

Sample #13 shows a low count. Three men were engaged in filling the beaters. Practically all of the material put into the beaters was waste asbestos board. Very little raw asbestos was added. No doubt the count at this position would be higher if more raw asbestos fibre were used out of the bags. It is recommended that the bags of asbestos fibre be stored in a room isolated from the remainder of the plant. This would eliminate dust generated in the filling and unpilling of these bags in the room and exposing more people to the dust than is necessary.

COMMENT:

This matter should be adjusted and corrected by the foreman in charge.

02504

Conclusions and Recommendations - Stratford Plant

Samples #1*, 24, 28, 31 and 32 all show that lead was present in the air sampled. Sample #30 is the only one that approaches a dangerous amount. This sample also shows a high dust count. The high dust count at the two Blanchard grinders #3 and 4 is due to the method of handling the brake lining during the grinding operation. This lining is the R.C. molded type and a number of strips are placed together for grinding off the edges. After the edges are ground on one side, the operator blows off the clinging dust with an air hose and reverses the strips to grind the opposite edges. This type of grinding should be done on the grinding machines designed for this particular work. It was observed that a great amount of the dust present in the air is caused by the handling of the material after grinding. Dust clings to the individual pieces, and when the stacks are moved about they are not put down carefully. This results in dust clouds arising.

COMMENTS:

The report is conclusive evidence of the need for altering the type of machinery used. These men also should be checked for possible accumulation of lead in their body.

Samples #2* and 26 show high counts. Large size brake lining was used at the time these samples were taken. It was observed that the exhaust hood on machine #10* did not catch all of the dust from this type lining. When smaller sizes of lining are ground on this machine the hood seems to catch most of the dust generated. The hood should be changed to take care of all sizes of lining ground on this machine.

COMMENTS:

This is a matter that the foreman should see adjusted. He is present at the plant supervising the work and there is no reason why he should not see that hoods are changed for the proper type of lining, as it is used.

PROPOSAL:

It is apparent that the need of a clinical laboratory is needed for the examination of blood smears to detect early lead poisoning. Some ways and means shall have to be adopted either (1) By maintaining facilities at the plants where the men are working and thus examine small groups and keep record of their blood at intervals say of, six month period or (2) To have them go to some laboratory on the outside where proper arrangements can be made for this prophylactic measure to be carried on.

A resume of the various health hazards in the plants has been narrated. I have tried as best possible to instruct the first aid attendants to inform me of the presence of individuals exposed to them and personally where I have found one who has an idiocyncrosy to them as some individuals are more susceptible than others to see that their position is changed and to adjust matter in the most compromising way between the men and the foreman. May I state cooperation to this extent has been favorable. The biggest problem has been with skin rashes of the coal-tar products causing a dermatitis. Miss Ella Tingard, has been most capable in handling this matter with me.

026 05