

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

60 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

April 4, 1960

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1960

The following report covers the highlights of Association activities for the first quarter of 1960. More detailed information on these activities or others not enumerated will be supplied on request. No attempt has been made to cover routine activities, and research is covered in a separate report of the Research Director.

GENERAL

1. Information Bulletins. Two of these bulletins were circulated to members during the quarter.

2. Annual Meeting. Arrangements for the program and other details of the annual meeting to be held on April 6-7 were completed.

3. New Members. Two new members joined the Association. They are Metalead Products Corporation, Palo Alto, California, and Price Battery Corporation, Hamburg, Pennsylvania.

4. Address. The Detroit Metal Dealers Association heard an address on lead, including a movie on lead mining and slides on lead usage, by David M. Borcina, assistant to the secretary.

5. Annual Review. The Secretary's annual review of lead appeared in the February issue of "Engineering and Mining Journal," was reprinted and distributed to members.

6. New Headquarters. After considerable negotiation, a lease has been signed jointly with the American Zinc Institute for the entire 14th floor of 272 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. The new space is being completely renovated to our specifications and will be air-conditioned. Occupancy is expected about May 1.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

7. Milwaukee "Lead Poisoning" Case. A claim for damages in the amount of \$200,000 by a former tenant of a Milwaukee apartment house, alleging injury due to contamination of water transmitted through lead pipes, seemed of such doubtful validity and so probably harmful to our interests that an "all out" effort has been initiated to see that this apparently spurious contention meets with the opposition it merits.

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Trial of the case has been set for September. A conference and correspondence with an attorney in Chicago, as well as arrangements for testimony by medical and engineering experts, are believed to have assured us, to the maximum extent possible, of a satisfactory outcome.

8. Harvard Lead Toxicity Study. The American Standards Association holds long-established leadership in the setting of allowable limits on substances which may be hazardous to health. Two committees of the ASA, in both of which we have a leading part, are concerned with such limits as applied to lead compounds. Efforts in both these committees to liberalize the limits on certain lead compounds believed to be of relatively lesser toxicity have been frustrated by the lack of scientific data which would justify such changes. Since these American Standards are quite generally looked to by governmental agencies in the promulgation of laws and regulations, there can be no question that the raising of the safe limits for such lead compounds as the chromates, silicates and others, as used in paints, colors and ceramics, would have an importantly favorable effect on sales. After consideration of the potentialities of findings by several scientific institutions, the Harvard School of Public Health has been invited to submit a proposal for research in this field over a three-year period. This proposal is now before our Board of Directors for consideration.

9. California Air Pollution Proposals. The much-publicized air pollution troubles of various centers of population in California have now been brought to a head in proposals by the State Health Department to establish atmospheric limits for a wide variety of pollutants, one of which is lead. A recent declaration that, "except for carbon monoxide, lead may be closer to toxic levels in the atmosphere than any other substance....." has come to us as representing "the latest official California thinking on lead." The possible effects of such "official thinking" are all too obvious, and every effort will be made to bring about its modification.

10. Meetings Attended. Gatherings attended since the first of the year have included the annual meeting of the Industrial Hygiene Round Table at Highland Park, Illinois, and, here in New York, a conference with representatives of the Community Council and the City Health Department, aimed at more effective implementation of the campaign against childhood plumbism, and the Greater New York Safety Conference.

11. Childhood Lead Poisoning--Cincinnati. Enhanced concern with problems of lead poisoning in children has recently been evidenced in Cincinnati. It is the only U. S. city known to have established a "Childhood Lead Poisoning Control Center," located in the Convalescent Hospital for Children. A study of forty cases of the disease, by D. H. D. Smith of the Children's Hospital Research Foundation, seeking to determine lead's actual share of responsibility for the mental retardation which it is alleged to cause, was activated by a small grant from the LIA in January. Response to a request for information on which proposed regulations by the Cincinnati Health Department may be based has been but one of a dozen or more federal, state and municipal legislative projects to which close attention has been given.

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12. Health and Safety Bulletin. A bulletin transmitting reprints of a medical article pointing out that "there is no evidence of any abnormal risks of lead poisoning of persons doing ordinary soldering work" has brought from our members a number of requests for multiple copies.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT--GENERAL

13. "Lead." The first 1960 issue of this eight-page publication was prepared, printed and mailed to our list of over 50,000 names. In addition, 1,500 copies were distributed by the Lead Development Association in London and another 4,500 by our Canadian members.

14. Advertising. One-page ads in our "Lead News Letter" series appeared in alternate months in "Materials in Design Engineering" and "Product Engineering."

15. Home Builders Show. Our exhibit at the show held in connection with the National Association of Home Builders annual convention in Chicago in January attracted more attention than usual, with sound deadening and decorative finishes receiving most.

16. Design Engineering Show. Work on a new exhibit for this show to be held at the New York Coliseum in May was started.

17. Battery Powered Industrial Trucks. A 12-page brochure setting forth the advantages of lead-acid battery powered industrial trucks as compared with gasoline powered trucks was prepared and printed. It has been circulated to members and will soon be mailed by LIA to a selected list of about 5,000 users of gasoline powered trucks. Another 5,000 copies will be used in answering inquiries and for distribution at exhibits. In addition, four manufacturers of industrial batteries have ordered 37,000 more copies at their own expense. It is also being sent to about 170 electric utilities with the thought that they may wish to distribute them.

18. Soundproofing. A special visit was paid to IHM at Lexington, Kentucky, which is conducting extensive research on various forms of lead for soundproofing business machines. We were able to lend some assistance in obtaining special materials and received considerable information, as yet not for release, about their work so far. Some other visits and conferences on similar subjects were held with such other interested companies as U. S. Plywood Corporation, Modern-Fold Doors, the Harley Company (makers of air-conditioning cooling towers), Fermacel-Le Page, Inc., and several architects and engineers.

Industry Development--Metal Products

19. Anodes. Reprints of the article on impressed current lead-alloy anodes which appeared in "Corrosion" magazine were obtained and circulated to members. Additional reprints will be used in answering inquiries and for distribution at the Design Engineering and other shows.

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20. Lead Dome Marks 25th Service-Free Year. An article with this title prepared by LIA with the cooperation of David Degnan, chief maintenance supervisor of the New Jersey State Prison Farm, Rahway, N. J., appeared in the January issue of "Heating and Air Conditioning Contractor." It has been reprinted by LIA and distributed to some 15,000 architects and sheet metal contractors. Incidentally, the specifications for lead-covering this huge dome were prepared by LIA for the State of New Jersey more than 25 years ago.

21. Terne-Plate Roofing. A four-page flyer on the renaissance of terne-plate (lead-alloy coated steel) roofing was prepared, printed and will be circulated to about 13,000 architects early in April.

22. Lead to Control Vibration and Noise. Recent Association publicity and advertising devoted to this subject has resulted in a deluge of inquiries of all sorts from architects, engineers and manufacturers. The staff has been hard put to it to handle these inquiries and supply technical data required, but there is no question of the interest shown. Several actual installations can be traced to this new interest.

23. Advertising. Two one-page ads on metallic lead products appeared in "Engineering News-Record" during the quarter.

24. Advisory Committee. A meeting of the Metallic Lead Products Advisory Committee was held to discuss plans for more extensive promotion of certain items, including nonsacrificial lead anodes, continuous extrusion of lead-alloy cable sheath, and lead to control sound.

25. Article. As a result of cooperation between the LIA staff and editors of "Materials in Design Engineering," a page in that magazine was devoted to an article on the use of sheet lead in the Niagara Power Project.

26. Bridge Bearing Plates. The Ohio State Highway Department commonly uses sheet lead bearing plates on top of its bridge piers. A visit to the engineer in charge of such work has provided considerable engineering data to help us publicize and promote this use of sheet lead in the near future.

27. Cooling Tower Antivibration Pads. LIA supplied data for an article in the March issue of "Plant and Power Services Engineer" on the lead-asbestos pads used under the air-conditioning cooling tower on a New York skyscraper at 575 Lexington Avenue. The engineers who specified this installation have agreed to by-line a more detailed technical article on this subject for placement in other magazines.

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INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT--PIGMENTS

28. Advertising. One two-color ad on lead metal protective paint appeared in "Engineering News-Record" and two such ads in "Marine Engineering/Log" during the quarter.

29. Conference. A conference was held with engineers of the Pennsylvania State Highway Department in the interest of using yellow edge striping on highways in that state.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT--CERAMICS

30. Advertising. During the quarter two one-page ads on lead in ceramics appeared in the "Bulletin" of the American Ceramic Society and "Ceramic Industry" and one each in "Brick and Clay Record," "Ceramic Age," "Metal Product Manufacturing" and "Ceramic News."

31. Article. An article on the ceramic research sponsored by LIA was prepared at the request of "Ceramic Industry." It has not yet appeared.



Secretary