

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

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February 18, 1932

Mr. Spencer Prentiss
16 Heckle Street
Wellesley Hills, Mass.

JUN 27 1932
826-a ID

Leslie G. Goss

Dear Spencer,

In line with our conversation of this afternoon, we are enclosing excerpt from Mr. Byrnes' memo to me relative to the H. F. Watson Mills.-

"I found Mr. S. C. Levy to be a Jew, about 35 years old. He was very smart, knew his subject extremely well, and was not afraid to talk. He showed me exactly how they made their water test, and proved to me, beyond a doubt, that Johnson's fibre was considerably better for their requirements than ours or Nicolet's or Corporation fibre. It seems that in our fibre there is a large percentage of fine asbestos dust, which would not only pass a 200 mesh screen, but when washed in water becomes a part thereof, turning the water to a milky color. On careful cross-questioning I learned that this dust, which I shall hereafter refer to as "Floats", adheres to the individual fibres to such an extent that in the paper machine where the water's action is not as severe as in the laboratory it adheres to the fibre, thereby greatly reducing the strength of the finished material. In addition to this it is very apt to make small pasty balls or masses which, when the paper is finished, appear as white spots which have no strength in themselves. Levy stated most emphatically that these floats cause the paper machine felt to dirty very quickly, making the sheet rough, irregular, and on the whole commercially inferior. He produced sheets of paper and graphically demonstrated the point. The paper made from Johnson's fibre is of one color. There are no spots or lines such as are seen in the Smith & Kansler paper submitted to us.

On further questioning, the fact was brought out that before Johnson had put in new machinery their fibre showed up no better than ours. Karl, it seems to me that we have in Levy's statements the cause of all of our troubles, not only with paper but with brake lining and roof coating liquids and plastics. Levy complimented our fibre very highly because of its lack of foreign material. He said that it was well opened and on the whole a splendid fibre with the exception of the float content. He claims that ALL chrysotile asbestos is alkaline. He made the phenolphthalein solution test on various mine fibres to demonstrate his point. He claims that magnesium oxide in itself is an alkali and that we can easily ascertain this for ourselves by the use of the Litmus A B C of pH. I doubted this statement and insisted that all fibre is more or less alkaline. By this time he was well warmed up to his subject, and naturally I took advantage of his enthusiasm to find out all that I could. It might be well here to state that Levy has spent some years with the Mellon Institute and has been Chief Chemist at the H. F. Watson Mills for the last

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seven years. He claims that asbestos fibre in itself is not absorptive but that in the roofing and brace lining business it is the desire of the manufacturer to entirely cover each and every individual fibre, sides, top, and bottom. The fibre is not porous. If the individual fibre is covered with a fine coating of floats it is not as absorptive as the entirely clean fibre. The absorptive qualities of the Johnson fibre has been increased more than 10% since the removal of the float content, wherein lies much food for contemplation in line with what Romans' requirements are."

We also enclose copy of the tests for Asbestos Fibre stock referred to therein. We await with interest your further advice.

Yours very truly,

VERMONT ASBESTOS CORPORATION

K. H. Behre