

FILE NAME: Quebec Asbestos Mining Association (QAMA)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Symposium Report Sent to Members of the QAMA
from Ivan Sabourin

Subject: Symposium June 16, 17, 18, 1958
Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal

1. This is to inform you as to the status of the above.

The Symposium took place as planned, delegates starting to arrive the week before the Symposium, the first being Professor Bernard of University of Paris (Chair of Pneumology and Director of Laennec Institute and the keyman, the Secretary-General of the World Organization against T.B. where most nations are represented). He arrived a week before, was met by the writer and Dr. Vidal, Chairman of the Symposium, at the airport where Canadian Broadcasting Corporation filmed and recorded interview which was projected over T.V. June Saturday 14th and Sunday the 8th with the evening program of actual news, the most followed program of C.B.C. ; the second delegate to arrive the week before being Professor Telman Robertson from Edinburg, Scotland, (Pneumococcalosis Industrial Clinic) ; he addressed the Symposium on the history of pneumococcalosis and industrial pulmonary diseases in the Isles particularly the North Section.

2. Professor Bernard delivered the key-note address : "Industrial Pulmonary Diseases since the Advent of Anti-biotics". A most important aspect very much alive at the moment.

The Symposium was officially opened by the Chairman, Dr. Vidal, in the presence of McGill University and Montreal University representatives who addressed the meeting in the fore-noon and at luncheon hour on Monday (Dr. Stevenson, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at McGill being the speaker).

The Symposium was being held under the auspices of these two Universities and with the collaboration of the Industrial Medical Association of the Province of Quebec grouping together doctors in the field of industry.

The Chairmen of the Province of Ontario and of the Province of Quebec Industrial Medical Associations were present throughout the Symposium (Dr. Donald Grant representing Ontario and Dr. Gagnon representing Quebec).

4. The communications, papers of the Symposium were most important and interesting, the more important scientific papers being followed by an average audience of 200 persons (v.g. Professor Kuschner of New York, Dr. Guy, Professor Dautrebande of Belgium, Professor Selye of Montreal, Dr. Fernand Grégoire, Dr. George Wright, Dr. Arthur Vorwald, Professor Eugene Pendergrass, indeed a World authority in Radiology, whose audience of 200 listened to a substantial paper on problems of modern radiology with an aggressive and alert panel discussion under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Smith in his quality of Assistant Professor at New York University which communication and discussion lasted over one hour and a half).

5. More than 400 doctors, physiologists, radiologists, hygienists attended. I do not think that at any time a Symposium on pneumoconioses and industrial medicine in industry has gathered a stronger and more constructive array of men and women having authority in the respective fields they covered, an authority acknowledged and based on their knowledge.

6. Dr. Vidal, Dr. Grégoire, Dr. Wright, Dr. Vorwald, Dr. Bristol, Dr. K. Smith, Dr. Guy, Dr. Beillemarre, Dr. Cartier had occasion to deal with the pneumoconioses problem (family of diseases which comprises our asbestosis problem and the various incidences connected with it, v.g. emphysema, cancer, tuberculosis, bronchitis, heart conditions - - - corpulmonally, coronary, thrombosis, infarctus, etc. - - - were covered).

7. Dr. Selye dealt particularly with the corpulmonally at some time, part of the study he is now conducting under our auspices.

8. Dr. Braun communicated the results of the epidemiological survey re: asbestosis-cancer incidence exactly at the time when we were having available pre-prints of the publication which comprises a condensation of the survey which the Industrial Hygiene Foundation of America made for us under the direction of

average audience of 500 persons (v.g. Professor Kuschner of New York, Dr. Guy, Professor Dautrebande of Belgium, Professor Selye of Montreal, Dr. Fernand Grégoire, Dr. George Wright, Dr. Arthur Vorwald, Professor Eugene Ponder, Dr. B. Braum, indeed a World authority in Radiology, whose audience of 200 listened to a substantial paper on problems of modern radiology with an aggressive and alert panel discussion under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Smith in his quality of Assistant Professor at New York University which communication and discussion lasted over one hour and a half).

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7. Dr. Selye dealt particularly with the corpulmonally at some time, part of the study he is now conducting under our auspices.

8. Dr. Braum communicated the results of the epidemiological survey re: asbestosis-cancer incidence exactly at the time when we were having available pre-prints of the publication which comprises a condensation of the survey which the Industrial Hygiene Foundation of America made for us under the direction of Dr. Braum. This was very well received. The publication came out that very week and therefore official knowledge was given to the open World at the same time we were having our Symposium (this was one of our main targets, it will be recalled).

9. Such eminent pathologists as Dr. Vorwald from Wayne University and Dr. Kushner of New York University were present. They all agreed this epidemiological survey was good work indeed.

10. Dr. Kushner, by the way, made known in the course of his presentation, a technique for reproducing malignant tumors in rats for the purpose of detecting radio-activity in various ore bodies and materials and their consequences. It is believed that the announcement of this technique constitutes news of very first importance for the pathological-research World anywhere. Dr. Kushner's technique, in terms of this specific problem (which gathered a considerable audience of X-Ray specialists in Montreal) could have been announced a few months ago by Dr. Kushner but he purposely deferred the announcement so that he would give our Symposium news of great import for the scientific World. A check up which seems to point that possibly work done at Pittsburg for the Atomic Energy Commission by Cember and Watson a couple of months ago could be construed as being of about equal importance. But an analysis of the whole situation, now under way under Dr. Guy and others, seems to disclose that for a strict, constant, and precise calculation of incidences of radio-activity in non-uranium as well as in uranium mines, Dr. Kushner's technique and results could be considered as the outstanding event of the Symposium. Incidentally, it is desired by Dr. Kushner if any radio-activity counts is being taken in a proper way, in the various ore-bodies into which we mine our asbestos.

11. Public relations and publicity wise the Symposium was well covered, the local press being regularly informing public opinion and the scientific press enquiring for news. A press room was maintained and the help of Editorial Associates in this connection is to be noted.

12. Simultaneous translation (French-English) was conducted throughout and publication of the whole Symposium is under preparation.

13. The Committee (Messrs. Lindell and Penhale) followed up the problem of the Symposium and authorized publicity of same being tagged openly, although

at pathologists as Dr. Furman from New York University and Dr. Kuschner of New York University were present. They all agreed this epidemiological survey was good work indeed.

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13. The Committee (Messrs. Lindell and Penhale) followed up the problem of the Symposium and authorized publicity of same being tagged openly, although discreetly with Q.A.M.A. as sponsors. This aspect was followed up. Messrs. G. Smith, Michael Messel, William Soutar were present, and Dr. Ken Smith gave

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us at all times his valuable advice, the benefit of his overall experience, working in that respect with Dr. Cartier and Dr. Grainger who attended throughout.

14. All in all the Symposium will have been truly, we firmly believe, a complete success scientifically and internationally so, credited officially to Q.A.M.A.

IVAN SABOURIN

June, 22, 1958