

CABLEGRAMS:
ETHYLPORT LONDON.

TELEGRAMS:
ETHYLPORT SOWEST.

K. H. Coe *Write Telegram*
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THAMES HOUSE, MILLBANK
LONDON, S.W.1

Telephone:

VICTORIA
1441

Copy to Dr. Graham Edgar.

Head Office:

135 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK, U.S.A

15th December, 1936.

Dr. R. A. Kehoe,
College of Medicine,
University of Cincinnati,
CINCINNATI. Ohio.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

I have just returned from a trip to India and the Far East inspecting the various mixing plants, the reports on which I am enclosing herewith. Summarising these plants, I found that the ones operated by the Asiatic (Shell) are very satisfactory. The plants are well built according to our specifications, and the medical supervision is conscientiously carried out.

The Standard-Vacuum have, at the present time, only three plants in the Far East. The one at Palembang, which has been in operation for some two years, is entirely satisfactory, but one cannot say the same for their plant at Shanghai, which was built according to plans sent out from their Company in New York, and is too small for their present output. Not only this, but their medical supervision has been undertaken, and I understand paid for, by their own Company, which simply means that the operatives visit the doctor every three months instead of the doctor going down to the installation and inspecting the gas masks and plant at the same time as the individuals.

The Texas Company have but one plant, namely in Shanghai, which again has been built according to plans sent out from New York, which I cannot help feeling were entirely inadequate. The only rules and regulations received in Shanghai cover bulk blending, in consequence of which there is no adequate description of the correct method of blending with drums. Full drums were stored in the changing room and empty drums outside the blending plant. The washing facilities were entirely inadequate, there being no hot water although the thermometer drops below freezing in the winter. The clothing and equipment is virtually non-existent, and the actual eductor system is not equipped with the necessary gauges, and there is no medical supervision covering this plant.

It seems to me that a situation such as this is not in our best interests and should never have occurred. As you know, it is not always easy, when once a company has started operating a blending plant, to get the necessary alterations satisfactorily arranged. It would be very much simpler if no Fluid were shipped to a plant until we made quite certain that the blending facilities were correctly erected and the regulations understood.

When in Shanghai I arranged for Dr. T. B. Dunn to carry out routine inspection of all the plants in Shanghai as well as the personnel every three months, and for his remuneration to be paid him by the Standard-Vacuum in Shanghai, who in turn will debit their New York office. I gave Dr. Dunn the necessary literature for this inspection and a sufficiency of inspection reports. He will commence this routine inspection from the 1st January, 1937.

It is possible that the Standard-Vacuum will erect a plant in Hankow and the Texas in Canton. In the case of the former I have asked the Standard-Vacuum to arrange for satisfactory medical inspection and to debit us through their New York office, as outlined above. In the latter case, we are already retaining the services of a doctor to cover the Shell plant, who could also cover the Texas plant if this were erected.

We would much appreciated it if you could take this point up with both the Texas and the Standard-Vacuum in New York and thus keep us fully informed of their activities so that we can make the necessary arrangements for medical supervision.

I naturally discussed the question pertaining to motor gasoline with the Standard-Vacuum in the Far East, although at the moment they are not using lead. I was very surprised to find that their reaction was unfavourable to the introduction of lead owing to the supposed health hazards, but when certain correspondence was shown me, copies of which I also enclose, it was obvious that no oil company would wish to market a lead treated motor gasoline if the dangers suggested in this correspondence were actually existent.

From the dates of these letters you will notice that the correspondence is not recent. However, since there has been no subsequent refuting of these ideas the Standard-Vacuum are still guided by them. We would be much obliged if you would take this whole matter up with the Standard-Vacuum, particularly Dr. Schoenleber, and request that their people in the Far East, namely China, Hongkong, Malay Peninsular and the Dutch East Indies, be informed of the true situation that, providing they carry out our instructions for blending and such things as cleaning storage tanks, a lead treated gasoline can be handled in exactly the same way as one untreated. You can naturally understand the difficulties of interesting such marketers in lead when these erroneous conceptions are prevalent.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, and kindest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

F. H. Stegner.

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