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Copy of letter received from C. Reen A.W.U. Rep.

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

MINES DEPARTMENT.

Wittenoom 5th March, 1956.

Mr. Hunt,
Workman's Inspector,
WITTENOOM.

Dear Sir,

Further to my conversation with you of recent date regarding the dust nuisance in the Mill.

We consider that the nuisance is getting worse. We approached the management in December of the last year over the same complaint and were assured that an expert was coming over from the Eastern States to supervise the operation of the Roto-Clones. No such man has yet been sighted, it is now the 5th March.

We feel sure that the plant is capable of easing the nuisance if properly trained personnel were put in charge.

At the moment we do have a man rostered for each shift to look after the Roto-Clones among other things. They do not understand the correct operation of the plant and although it would probably save the Company some face if an inquiry were to be held I can assure you it does not save us from breathing and seeing dirt.

We appreciate your efforts on our behalf, but feel that if you could arrange for the Chief Inspector to see the conditions under which we are working then the Company may be obliged to take some positive action with a view to improving same.

We know that in the past when we have convened Boards of Reference the Company have been too well forewarned and great care has been taken to ensure that everything is in order on the day, watering of ore at the Mine Head, reduced tonnages being put through the treatment plant etc. and the Board get an entirely false picture.

If it is at all possible for you to arrange an inspection by the Chief Inspector then I would suggest that he does not arrive here by M.M.A. but rather you pick him up at say Marble Bar or Hedland and come to town unheralded and unseen.

I feel that this is the only way a true picture of conditions as they generally exist, could be exposed.

Thanking you for past favours,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) Cee. Reen.

A.W.U. Rep.

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