PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

MET-282

February 13, 1948

Mr. Glen J. Spahn
Second Vice-President
Canadian Head Office

Dear Glen:

I am enclosing copies of the correspondence with the local union in Thetford Mines which has taken exception to a report by me on tuberculosis in Thetford Mines, published recently in "Laval Medical". I understand the union published in the local Thetford press a statement similar to the one that was sent to Mr. Lincoln. I trust my reply will close the incident.

Dr. Barnette has a copy of the paper which was written in 1944 following a visit I made to Thetford Mines and Asbestos. I think you will agree after reading the paper that the union has strained a point in trying to create an issue.

Sincerely yours,

George M. Wheatley, M.D.
Assistant Vice-President

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January 31, 1948

Dear Sir: -

Perhaps you are familiar with an article entitled "Industrial Medicine," with a subtitle "Tuberculosis and Asbestosis," this article is signed by George E. Wheatley, M.D., Assistant Medical Director, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and was published in the "Laval Medical" of the University Hospitals of Quebec, November, 1947 issue.

We do not argue the medical viewpoint, we leave that to doctors who do not agree with yours (meaning G.E.W.). But in a paragraph, with the title "Health Conditions at Thetford" Dr. Wheatley, without verifying his facts, which he should have done because the consequences could be serious, said that the worker population did not have good eating, living, and sleeping habits. We live at Thetford Mines, and according to the opinion of local doctors, professional people and churchmen, we can say that it is false and unjust to write first: "the dwellings are overcrowded and often children and adults share the same bed" second "Workers all drink from the same cup"; "Workers are careless about personal cleanliness, and many even have the habit of spitting on the floor." "A poor nutrition, which is fairly general among the working class, also helps to reduce resistance to tuberculosis."

As you can verify, these statements are not very flattering either to our people or to your policyholders in our asbestos towns.

No doubt, asbestos miners do not receive the salary which your doctor receives and can not afford to pay for the latest developments in health.

We ask you to find out what person your doctor came to Thetford with for a few hours - and you will conclude that this person had every interest in discrediting our working people and took advantage of your doctor's position to prejudice the rest of the population of Quebec Province against us.

Our Federation of Worker Groups in the asbestos industry represents more than 4,000 workers and we do not intend to stand being maligned like this.

We shall protest to "Laval Medical" and shall ask that they publish this letter. We have also published a protest in our local newspapers and we can tell you that the people of Thetford particularly are very dissatisfied with the attitude of your doctor. It would have been more becoming of your doctor to help us to correct working conditions by constructive suggestions, instead of discrediting us as he has done.

We hope that you will take note of this letter and that we shall have the benefit of knowing your opinion and whether you are interested in having your Company welcome here.

Very truly yours,

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