

December 29, 1938.

Mr. H. B. Meller,
Managing Director,
Hygiene Foundation of America, Inc.,
4400 Fifth Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Penna.

Dear Harry:

I talked with Mr. Wharton Clay of the National Mineral Wool Association shortly after receiving your letter of December 22nd.

I find he is discouraging your making the trip to New York to talk with him because, in his opinion, the proposed survey of the industry is slated for rejection at the next meeting of the members of the Association.

It appears that you may have been misled concerning the point to which the proposal had progressed within the Association. As a matter of fact, I was not myself aware of the exact state of affairs. It seems that one member, Standard Lime & Stone Company, of Baltimore, Maryland, has been urging that the Secretary of the Association present a proposal for a survey of this type to the membership, with an estimate as to the expenditure that would be involved. On other occasions such a proposal has been made in general terms and without detailed information as to what would be done and what the cost would be - and on each occasion has met with defeat.

It also developed in the course of my talk with Mr. Clay that, when the name of the Foundation had been suggested to Standard Lime & Stone Company, they had indicated a belief that we were not set up to do this sort of work and that the Foundation was merely a "clearing house" for information derived from the work of others. I hastened to disabuse Mr. Clay's mind of this idea and pointed out that, while the Foundation would make use of

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the various agencies in the medical, engineering and Roentgenological fields who might otherwise be consulted, they would contribute largely to the success of the survey through directing the activities of the various experts and through correlating the results of their separate investigations.

I made these points clear to Mr. Clay and obtained his promise that no commitments would be made elsewhere without first giving you the opportunity of coming to New York and presenting your proposition. I feel this assurance on his part is the best that can be done at the present time under the circumstances, and I believe you will agree that a trip by you to New York at this time might prove a waste of time and money. I think, however, that it will not be amiss for you to write Mr. Clay and endeavor to correct the impression of the Foundation he received from the Standard Lime and Stone Co. representative, as you could probably do this more effectively than I. It might also be helpful if a very rough estimate - so labeled - of the probable expenses of the survey could be provided Mr. Clay in the event the proposal is brought up at the January 13th meeting of the Association.

With kindest regards and best wishes for the New Year, I am

Sincerely,

Vandiver Brown,
General Attorney.

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