

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

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LEAD OXIDES EXCLUDING STORAGE BATTERIES AND CERAMICS*

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I feel privileged to comment on the outlook for Lead Oxides excluding the storage battery and ceramic fields. Mr. Somerville has given us the battery picture and Mr. Nortyke will discuss the ceramic field later this afternoon.

It is hazardous to predict the future for almost any business these days. The position of Lead Oxides has been complicated by the recent and critical Lead shortage which intensified research for substitutes and promoted economies in the use of Lead Compounds.

The Lead Industries Association estimated that approximately 177,000 tons of Lead Oxides were shipped in 1951. Excluding the battery and ceramic industries, which are the largest consumers, about 57,000 tons or 1/3 of these shipments were directed to Red Lead paints, chrome pigments, insecticides, oil refining, varnishes and driers, lead soaps, stabilizers and a host of miscellaneous uses.

I wish it were possible to report that increased tonnage requirements for these industries which I have just mentioned is in the offing or that new outlets were developing. The fact of the matter is that real efforts must be made to maintain consumption in these industries.

The efforts of the Lead Industries Association to promote the use of Red Lead metal protective paint through joint research has been encouraging. It is a good example of what an energetic and progressive program can achieve. During the years 1941-42-43 over 20,000 tons of Red Lead per year was used for metal protective paints. Red Lead then received a serious setback due to the introduction and promotion of substitutes (Zinc chromates primarily). During the years 1946 to 1949 inclusive paint Red Lead consumption was cut in half to about 10,000 tons per year.

The work of the Lead Industries Association Red Lead Technical committee in developing new formulations and issuing technical bulletins as well as publicizing the merits of Red Lead is largely responsible for the increase in paint Red Lead tonnage to over 14,000 tons per year in 1950 and 1951. Red Lead should maintain its position with the continued efforts of the Lead Industries Association.

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Chrome pigments (yellow and green Lead chromates) accounted for an estimated 11,500 tons of Lead Oxides in 1951. Lead seems to have a fairly secure place in this market with consumption following our overall economy.

Oil refiners used about 8,000 tons and nearly 6,500 tons of Lead Oxides went into Lead Arsenate in 1951. The total of 14,500 tons used by these two industries represents only a slight decline from the 17,000 tons recorded for 1950. However, extensive efforts were made to cut down on the use of Lead Oxides in both of these industries. The refiners were particularly disturbed by the uncertainty of their Lead supplies. Just how seriously this market has been damaged cannot be fully ascertained at this time.

The remaining miscellaneous uses of Lead Oxides for the varnish, rubber, floor covering, plastic and other industries accounted for over 16,000 tons of Lead Oxides.

The Lead Industries Association by its work in Red Lead has shown that teamwork gets results.

The Lead Oxide manufacturers as members of the Lead Industry team are making every effort to hold present markets and develop new ones for their products. One of the principal factors in support of this program is the stability of Lead supply and I feel sure that the Lead producing members of the team will do everything possible to uphold their end.