

Lead Industries Association

420 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION:

As the Lead Industries Association is now over six months old it seems desirable at this time to report briefly to the members regarding our activities.

Shortly after our formal organization, an office was taken in the Graybar Building, 420 Lexington Avenue, convenient of access to members having headquarters in uptown and downtown New York, and to members visiting from out-of-town.

One of the first things we did was to visit Washington for the purpose of acquainting the Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission with full details of our organization and the extent of our proposed activities. We are furnishing these and other government departments interested, with copies of all statistical data distributed to our members.

We have endeavored to guard the lead industries from unfair competition. In this connection we have filed a protest with the Federal Trade Commission relative to the use of the term "Leadite" for a product containing no lead and competing with caulking lead.

Our statistical program was begun with the collection of weekly domestic pig lead sales statistics. These are gathered and distributed on Monday of each week and now cover 100% of the domestic pig lead sold in the United States. As our members know, the form of reporting domestic pig lead sales has been expanded to include information regarding the type of business done and the grades of lead sold. Members are now supplied with a comprehensive weekly picture of the lead market.

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Progress has been slow in the collection of statistics relating to various lead products manufactured by our members. However, we have succeeded in issuing statistics relating to lead pigments and expect soon to publish our first report on metallic lead products. In each case we are covering a field not now touched by any other agency.

The association has begun a survey of the plumbing and building code situation in the large cities of the United States with a view to encouraging or maintaining the specification of lead rather than inferior rustable metals for various uses.

In cooperation with the Bureau of Standards and the American Gas Association, we are arranging for a competitive test of baked red lead as a priming coat for protective pipe coverings. If this test proves successful the outlet for red lead should be greatly increased.

We are continuously accumulating a large amount of useful data regarding lead and lead products to be made the basis for later educational and publicity efforts.

Some of the lead industries have been receiving much undesirable and unwarranted publicity regarding lead poisoning. We are investigating this serious problem with a view to counteracting this type of publicity.

Early in the year, when Congress announced its intention of writing a new tariff bill our association sounded the opinion of each member with respect to having the association take part in tariff matters. Our membership unanimously agreed that it was undesirable to request any change up or down in the rates on lead ores, concentrates, metal, or finished products. However, some of our manufacturing members requested the association to make a strong attempt to have the drawback law liberalized so that they could compete more readily in export markets. At the request of the Executive Committee your Secretary represented the association in this tariff matter at various conferences in Washington. So far we have been successful in presenting our views and feel confident no action will be taken in revising the lead tariff, either up or down.

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Our finances are in a healthy condition. The three largest members of our association were kind enough to furnish it with loans aggregating \$9,000 as working capital to tide the association over the early stage of its existence. These loans have been recently completely discharged. On July 3rd we had a cash balance of \$4,954.56.

In conclusion may I say that we are always glad to receive suggestions from members pertaining to our activities and problems. We hope that those out-of-town members who come to New York occasionally will not fail to call at our headquarters where they will find a cordial welcome awaiting them.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary.