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AUG 26 1932

ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION

HERMAN RUSSELL, PRESIDENT
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E. C. SCOBELL, VICE PRESIDENT & COMPTROLLER
F. H. PATTERSON, SECRETARY & ASST. COMPTROLLER
J. C. COLLINS, TREASURER

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

E. G. MINER, CHAIRMAN OF BOARD
F. C. GOODWIN, CHAIRMAN EXECUTIVE COM.

Aug. 24th, 1932.

Mr. Gerard Swope, Pres't,
General Electric Company,
Schenectady, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Swope:

Mr. E.G. Miner, Chariman of our Board and
Chairman of the Board of The Pfaudler Company of this City,
has asked me to get in touch with you and see if the General
Electric Company will not interest themselves in a research
study of Silicosis, to be carried on at the Strong Memorial
Hospital, this City.

There is available at the Hospital a
Research Fellow of the Rockefeller Institute, Dr. Alberto
Hurtado, who has interested himself in similar work in Peru.
Mr. Miner is trying to secure \$12,000.00 for this work,
\$1,000.00 each from twelve firms. The Eastman Kodak Company,
General Railway Signal, Symington Company and others will
participate. If you think this is a work which the General
Electric Company might support, your participation would be
appreciated by the Rochester men and myself.

Very truly yours,

Herman Russell
President.

H.

August 29, 1934

Dr. Alice Hamilton
Haddam, Connecticut

Dear Alice:

If I remember correctly, you are interested in Silicosis and made a number of recommendations in regard to our own plants. Can you refresh my memory and tell me, from the nature of our work, whether there is any justification for our contributing to this work?

Cordially,

GE:H

New York

August 29, 1938

Mr. D. L. Delack
Manager
Schenectady Works

Dear Mr. Delack:

Here is a letter from Mr. Russell, President
of the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation.

It is my impression we did do a good deal of
work on Silicosis. Can you tell me about it? or can
you refer this letter to someone who can, and also take
it up either with the Research Organization or someone
else who knows about this and tell me whether we would
be interested in cooperating, as they suggest.

Very truly yours,

GERARD SHOPE

GS:H

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I understand our Dr. Voseburgh has already been to Rochester and took with him exhibits of x-rays, and we will be very glad to give your organization access to the information we have gathered and cooperate in every practical way.

In view of our work on this subject, I hope you will forgive us if we do not make any cash contribution at this time.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

CS:H

Schenectady, N. Y.
September 14, 1932

Mr. Herman Russell
President
Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation
Rochester, New York

My dear Mr. Russell:

On my return, I found your letter of August 24th, which had been acknowledged by my secretary in my absence, and immediately took it up with our manufacturing organization.

I find we have done a good deal of work and made quite a study of Silicois through the Harvard Medical School and our own doctors, and have spent a good deal of money in this direction. This study was conducted by Dr. Philip Drinker of the Harvard Medical School and Dr. Cowie of our own organization.

SEP 12 1932

HADLYME, CONNECTICUT
TELEGRAMS VIA SAYBROOK
TELEPHONE, DEEP RIVER 65-2

Sept. 9, 1932.

er - ?

Dear Gerard:

Philip Drinker writes me that neither he nor his brother, professor of physiology who has done a good deal of work on dust diseases, has ever heard of Dr. Hurtado and do not feel competent to pass on the question of the value of the research he plans.

As I know nothing about him either, you will have to turn elsewhere to find out. Perhaps the Rockefeller Foundation would be the best place.

Cordially yours

Allen Hamilton

SEP-9-1932

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

Schenectady, September 8, 1932

Mr. Gerard Swope
President
New York Office

Dear Mr. Swope:

Your letter of August 29th arrived while I was on vacation. When I returned I found some correspondence from Mr. Miner to Dr. Vosburgh regarding proposed donation by the General Electric Company and I have been into the matter in considerable detail.

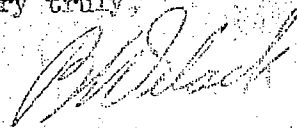
The fact is that we had Dr. Cowle employed on health hazards, spending a great deal of her time on investigations of dust hazards as pertaining to silicosis. We found many serious situations which did not appear on the surface and which had never given us any concern until we began our investigation and examination of employees. We developed methods of dust count and I believe we have determined to the satisfaction of our doctors conditions which are safe and which are unsafe. Much money has been expended in controlling and eliminating dust hazards.

There are quite a number of our people who have incipient silicosis condition, but it is surprising that in some activities it requires from eight to ten years before this begins to show much of any development. In fact, we had one case where the exposure had been twenty years or more and the patient was apparently in fairly good health, although the lungs were practically destroyed. This employee died suddenly.

The matter is of great importance, and we have spent so much money in our own interests and have gained so much by it that I doubt very much if we would gain materially, from our viewpoint at Schenectady, from this particular investigation. However, I understand there is a possibility that the Elmira Foundry and Locke Insulator Company may be involved in suits on this account and it might be worth while to make a contribution toward the fund in order to have the goodwill of this organization.

I believe we should offer this organization access to the information which we have gleaned from our own investigations, and cooperate with them in every practical way. Dr. Vosburgh has already been to Rochester, taking with him exhibits of x-rays.

Yours very truly,



BLD:MHV

HADLYME, CONNECTICUT
TELEGRAMS VIA SAYBROOK
TELEPHONE, DEEP RIVER 65-2

Aug. 31, 1932.

Dear Gerard:

To refresh your memory I will tell you that you had, up to 1930, an expert on silicosis; who visited all your plants in which this hazard is present and made recommendations as to dust control. He is Philip Drinker, of the Harvard School of Public Health. Since the depression he has done nothing, feeling, as I do, that industrial hygiene in plants as good as those of the G.E. is something of an unnecessary luxury under present conditions.

He will be able to tell you much better than I how advisable it is to have this piece of research done in just that way, and I am sending your letter to him and asking him to answer it.

Very sincerely yours

Oliver Heavill

February, 1934

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