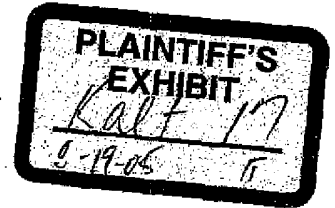


1002-1

Indicated
by *Perice*

December 16, 1921.



Dr. H. C. Ernst.,
720 Chicago Ave.,
East Chicago, Ind.

Dear Sir:-

LEAD POISONING

Mr. J. O. Elton, of the International Smelting Company, has very kindly written us in regard to your experience in the prevention and detection of lead poisoning cases at the East Chicago Plant.

We have in the past had considerable trouble from this source at our plant here, and Mr. Elton suggests that you might be able to furnish us with some valuable advice on the treatment of such cases of poisoning. He also refers to a paper on the subject written by your former associate, Dr. G. W. Miller. We would be deeply indebted to you if you could furnish us with copies of Dr. Miller's paper or advise us in regard to your own experience in handling these cases.

Thanking you in advance for your co-operation in this matter, I am,

Yours very truly,

General Superintendent.

AEW-RAL.

*1/17/22
copy
rec'd. to Dr. H. C. Ernst.
G. W. Miller*

International Smelting Company

25 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, December 8, 1921.

Mr. R. B. Caples, Asst. General Supt.
Great Falls Reduction Works,
Great Falls, Montana.

Dear Caples:

I was in East Chicago for a few days and shall return there again before I go west.

By the way, I ran onto some very interesting news in regard to prevention and detection of lead poisoning. The prevention stuff is mostly old, and the essence of it is cleanliness, such as washing hands, face and teeth before eating, daily bathing, no tobacco while on the job, all clothes changed before leaving the job, use of respirator and goggles when in dusty places, etc. It has been found here that a blood test will show the effect of lead long before any other symptom will indicate it.

Once a month a blood smear sample is taken from every man working where at all exposed to possible lead poisoning. These samples are numbered and sent to a reliable pathologist. His return classifies the workers into several groups.

- No. 1. If reported negative the normal amount of red corpuscles are present in the sample.
- " 2. Are the positive tests. This shows the first indication of lead poisoning, and the number of red corpuscles have slightly decreased.
- " 3. Are mildly positive tests. Show a decrease in the number of red corpuscles, with the addition of a few stippled cells.
- " 4. Is mildly positive with stippled cells and mild anisocytosis.

Medical terms from now on increase rapidly.

R.B.C.
12/14/21

Our East Chicago records show that if we do not act at once when the tests show that a man is absorbing lead and is near the danger point, he may be taken down with acute lead poisoning within a few days. Both Johnson and Bowman claim that this test spots the man susceptible to lead poisoning before it has really done him any harm and before he knows it. By following this test we can remove the man to a place where there is less lead and give him a chance to recover, and in certain other cases it has been necessary to discharge the man, because he would not obey instructions.

These records also show that a man fully recovers if removed to a place where there is no lead. Dusty places are by far the worst, as we all know.

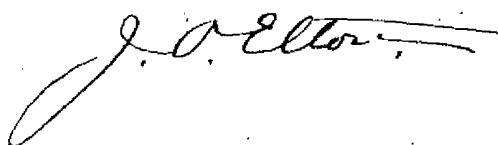
I thought you might be interested in this information, and I am giving the address of our physician, as I thought Dr. Davis might want to write to him for additional dope.

Dr. H. C. Ernst
720 Chicago Avenue,
East Chicago, Indiana.

Dr. Ernst was formerly associated with the late Dr. G. W. Miller, who for several years made a specialty of lead poisoning and presented a paper before the Medical Society at San Francisco in the latter part of 1920.

I believe it will pay you to have Dr. Davis follow this up and he might be able to get a copy of Dr. Miller's paper.

Yours very truly,



JOElton/J

1002¹

Oct. 22, 1919.

Mr. P. L. Seibert, President,
Mill & Smeltermen's Union,
Rolling Mill Department.

Dear Sir:- COMPLAINT REGARDING CLOTHS FURNISHED MEN WORKING
IN FLUES

I am enclosing herewith one of the cloths which we are giving the men who are working in the flue. Complaint was made this morning by the Executive Committee that the men were not being given sufficient cloth to protect themselves.

The sample which I am enclosing is identical with the cloths which have been given out, and you will note that it contains twelve thicknesses of cheese cloth and that the cloth is of ample size to cover the nose and mouth. Mr. Egan, First Aid Man, who gives these cloths out, says that he has had no complaint from any of the men about the cloths and that he has given the men all of the cloths asked for.

I think that you will agree with me that this complaint was not justified in any way, and it seems to me that you should take this matter up with the man or the men making the complaint, in order that these groundless complaints may be eliminated as much as possible.

Yours very truly,

General Superintendent.

*Mr. Egan,
J. J. J.
10-23-19*

AEW:RAL.

1002¹

Anaconda Copper Mining Company
Great Falls Reduction Department
Great Falls, Montana

Monsie

Address all Communications to the
Company

May 4th. 1918.

Mr. M. W. Krejci,

Asst. Mgr. B. & M.

My Dear Sir:

In reply to your request for suggestions regarding the possibility of eliminating to a degree, the danger of the men in the Arsenic and Lead portions of the works, from the poisonous effects of those metals, will state that all that I can make at this time is a few suggestions.

In attacking this problem there are but two points to work on. First:- Elimination of the dust (which includes ventilation) and this you are better qualified in instituting, than I am. but will from time to time make any suggestion that occurs to me.

Second:- The personal cleanliness of the men which is a problem requiring eternal vigilance, and on which most of my suggestions will be.

Among the Arsenic workers practically the only complaints have been from the local effects, although in a very few, found some slight symptoms of the constitutional. Among the workers at the Bag House and Reverbatory, found some slight symptoms of leading, but you have to ^{the} their complaints with a grain of salt, as they are all anxious to be transferred.

If it be feasible to have two or more crews for the more dangerous portions of the work, so that a man would only have to work two weeks or less each month in those places.

Would suggest that the Janitors at the change house be instructed to see that the men that signed the book there had first taken a bath.

Also that one of the most intelligent and trustworthy men on each shift be appointed to see that the men wash thoroughly and rinse out their mouths before eating, and at the Arsenic plant, that he sees that they use the wash

That all water coolers be placed entirely away from any source of dust and that sanitary drinking cups be provided. The men be instructed to rinse their mouths before drinking,

To transfer at once any man that shows any symptoms of acute poisoning.

If we could impress on the men the fact that it is the particles they swallow that ~~that~~ practically does all the damage, and what they inhale is of very secondary importance, they would likely co-operate with us more freely.

If we could also get them to understand the necessity of keeping their teeth in good condition, it would be a big step forward. Most of the Lead lines I saw was in my opinion Pyorrhoia.

The hood you have installed at the Reveratory, the men state is a great help on the dust proposition. To improve the dust condition in the Bag House, is a difficult proposition to handle, but believe by inducing the men to take reasonable precautions, and transferring at once any one showing any signs of poisoning, the danger will be reduced to the minimum. and if it could be arranged to alternate crews a week about it would practically obviate the danger.

Will report to you from time to time any suggestions that occur to me.

Hoping that I may be of service to you in this vexing problem.

I am

Yours very truly

E. P. Lantz

mt
JAK
copies - Mr. M. E. Mitchell
 Mr. A. J. Elliott

OFFICE OF
ANACONDA COPPER MINING COMPANY
GREAT FALLS REDUCTION DEPARTMENT

TO: DR. E. R. FOUTS

FIRST AID AND HOSPITAL SERVICE.

GREAT FALLS, MONT. April 25th 1918

Dear Sir:

In accordance with our conversation of today, please make a sanitary survey of the various departments of these Works relative to analyzing unhealthy conditions therein, criticisms of any present methods and practices. I would suggest that the Arsenic, Reverberatory Furnace and Bag House departments be investigated first.

At the Arsenic Plant department, we are allowing the men one-half hour at the end of the shift in which to bathe and have provided a record at the Change House in which the employee is supposed to sign his name after having bathed.

A lotion and salve of iron-hydroxide is also provided, as well as gauze to protect exposed parts. A lunch and wash room has been installed at the Arsenic Plant and each man is supposed to eat only at that place and only after he has washed up, so as to prevent contaminating his food with arsenical dust.

The Reverberatory Furnaces and Bag House departments treat and produce a material containing lead. There is a slight possibility of lead poisoning which can be entirely eliminated by the men exercising a little care and prevention.

We have installed wash and lunch rooms at both places and have instructed the men to use the same. No lunch buckets are to be allowed at or around the furnaces or bag house where there is any chance of lead dust contaminating the food. We are installing hoods for taking away the lead fumes arising from the slag and matte pots during skimming and tapping.

When you have completed a survey of each department, please let me have your report of the same, stating conditions as you find them, together with your criticisms and recommendations for improving conditions.

Very truly yours,

file
Assistant Superintendent.

MRM

Copies: Mr. W.E. Mitchell
Mr. A.T. Elliott

Dr. Fouts turned in report about May 11/18