

Chicago

Auxiliaries Research

Cleveland

Aux. Res.

July 27, 1955

S. B. Coelidge, Jr.

Mildewicides - Mercury Compounds

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JUL 28 1955

AUX. RES. DEPT.

As per your suggestion of June 28th, Mr. Sahli has revised Paper # 106, "Preservation of Coating Compositions Containing Casein and Other Proteins" to conform with your suggestion and criticizing the use of mercury compounds as preservative agents so as to direct our main efforts towards its use in interior coatings.

The original paper was based largely on interior coatings, but did not specifically exclude exterior coatings as such. The mercury compounds, as you pointed out and as we all well know, are used extensively in exterior coatings, both the oil paint type and the emulsion type, which is PVA, etc. For this reason, you felt that we should tone our comments down to apply specifically to interior coatings without the direct severe criticism of mercury compounds and the trouble they have experienced in the past from a toxicity angle.

I believe the paper now may give the salesman the desired material to accomplish the purpose intended without putting ourselves in a position of criticizing rather severely a commercial product.

After hearing from you on this, I contacted Mr. Squibb, who has had practically all the trouble in trying to keep lithopone in emulsion paints due to the incompatibility of these mercury compounds in lithopone. In fact, at least two companies took lithopone out of their formulas in order to be able to use mercury compounds. This precipitated our action originally, and by correspondence we have been able to slow down this action. Mr. Squibb indicated to me recently that Montgomery Ward here in Chicago had likewise removed lithopone from some of their paints because of the incompatibility with mercury compounds. He was anxious to review the paper to see what information he could get to try to counteract this move and came up with a few suggestions on the revision of the paper himself to tone it down, as indicated.

If our salesman should find it necessary to use stronger terms in trying to keep lithopone in paints because of the incompatibility with mercury compounds, we can do some work by letter along this line, and not have to put it in a brochure that could get out to the trade.

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NO22241

S. B. Coolidge, Jr.

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We would appreciate your comments on the attached revision of Paper #106, and indication as to whether or not we should go ahead and make up a few copies for use only by the salesman; or if you feel that the paper has been toned down sufficiently, make up extra copies for distribution to the trade.



C. H. Adams,
Mineral Products Laboratory

CHA:hd

cc: JVL

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