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Everett

March 23, 1929.

Mr. Nelson P. Darling,
General Electric Company,
River Street, Lynn, Mass.

Dear Mr. Darling:

Last night Manfred Bowditch drove me out to Everett for I was anxious to see the work of shaking and chipping castings as Mr. Ballard described it the day I lunched with you all. I quite agree with him that conditions at night are far worse than by day and it is certainly a good thing that this particular process is done chiefly at night.

It is evident that there will always be trouble in the Everett Foundry with silicosis so long as the work is carried on in that way. Moreover, I believe that the danger of tuberculosis is increased by the long hours. The men work regularly a twelve-hour shift, with half an hour off for lunch, and at present they are adding an hour's over-time. This is an excessively long day and as of course you know, over-fatigue does lessen the resistance to tuberculosis. I should like to see four things done; first, the mechanical shaking instead of hand work; second, a hydraulic system to do away with chipping; third, the introduction of the eight-hour shift; and fourth, the substitution of vacuum cleaning for blowing in the cleaning of molds. At present the dust is blown out and this makes an additional danger in the foundry. Fortunately for me the financial end of such reforms is not in my province. You will very likely tell me that what I am advocating is prohibitively expensive, but it is my job to tell you what should be done to protect the health of the men, not to decide whether the Company can afford to do it.

The conditions I have described affect at present some fifty-eight men, which is not an insignificant number.

Sincerely yours,

