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SCAFFOLDS

A severe or fatal accident often stimulates an employer to an interest in prevention. What recommendations had been urged upon him previously without success are now accepted warmly and even exceeded, after a disaster has occurred.

It is a pity that employers can not be stimulated to interest themselves in prevention before rather than after the fact. What characterizes the far-seeing, capable, efficient employer from the impotent and harassed is that the former aims to provide against disaster rather than to pay for it when it occurs, because if care is not taken disaster will occur.

ASBESTOS

What is asbestos? It is a unique substance of rocky formation which resists heat, water and wear. It can be spun, woven or molded into any necessary form. There are several varieties containing various proportions of silicate of magnesia. Breathing the dust of this substance is bad for the health just as the breathing of almost any other foreign substance is deleterious. Workers who have to handle asbestos fibre or material should avoid as far as possible breathing the dust and employers should take care to have suitable ventilation in places where asbestos dust is generated.

It is quite probable that the disease resulting from the breathing of asbestos dust will be similar to that resulting from silica. If that be so, manufacturers or handlers of asbestos products might begin here and now to prevent trouble because of the fact that, like silicosis, the disease can be prevented—there is no cure.

ONLY AN ACCIDENT

As the watchman was making his rounds in the evening he found a worker lying dead on the road under the conveyor. Nothing can be done for the dead; nothing for the sorrowing family; but what was the cause? Something may be done to prevent such accidents in the future. Let us look at the situation. We may find the conveyor improperly guarded, a worker improperly instructed or, if given instruction, not heeding it. Here are the three elements that make for fatalities. Here are the conditions which, if remedied, make for safety and the preservation of life.

Employer, look to safety in your plant. The conditions here may be such that a fatality is possible, nay, even probable. Further, see that your worker has no excuse for saying "I did not know." Get your employees into safety habits. Equally as effective protection of life guards the worker mainly against the common hazards, it is true, but it also prevents him from taking risks and provides against unusual dangers which may arise at any time.

A. W.

ENGINEERING DIVISION'S REPORT

The total amount of money expenditure represented by the 49 plans of construction work on factories, mercantile establishments and places of public assembly, as submitted to the Department's Division of Engineering during the month of March, was $364,497. In February the total amount was $692,113, and in March, 1933, $331,900.

The plans that were received included three new factory buildings, twelve buildings to be used as mercantile establishments and five to be used as places of public assembly. The new factory buildings represent a total expenditure of $245,000; the new mercantile buildings represent an outlay of $108,150, and the plans of the new buildings to be used as places of public assembly called for an expenditure of $25,000. The total amount of money represented in the plans relating to factories was $355,687; for mercantile establishments $154,050, and for places of public assembly $54,760.

The plans came from 20 counties of the State. Niagara county submitted four plans calling for an outlay of $180,600. Westchester county submitted eight plans calling for an outlay of $110,350. Dutchess county submitted five plans calling for an expenditure of $51,700. Orleans county submitted one plan calling for an outlay of $45,000; Fulton county submitted three plans calling for an outlay of $41,000; Nassau county submitted two plans calling for an outlay of $33,260; Erie county submitted seven plans calling for an expenditure of $22,387; Sullivan county submitted two plans calling for an outlay of $22,000.

During the month the Division examined a total of 75 plans. Of this number 45 were approved, 17 were disapproved and 13 were examined in connection with petitions for variations. Of the approval plans 22 related to mercantile establishments, 19 to factories and four to places of public assembly. Of the disapprovals nine related to mercantile establishments, five to factories and three to places of public assembly.

Details of plans are as follows:

Factories	Plans	Cost
New buildings	3	$245,000
Alterations	9	95,400
Fire escapes	1	800
Elevators	5	14,687
	18	$355,887
Mercantile Establishments		
New buildings	12	$108,150
Alterations	8	43,400
Elevators	1	2,500
	21	$154,050
Places of Public Assembly		
New buildings	5	$25,060
Alterations	3	29,500
Exits	2	200
	10	$54,760
March Plans by Counties		
Albany	2	$3,500
Broome	2	7,500
Cayuga	2	4,600
Chemung	1	2,000
Dutchess	5	51,700
Erie	7	22,387
Franklin	1	1,800
Fulton	3	41,000
Monroe	1	5,000
Nassau	2	33,260
Niagara	4	180,600
Onondaga	2	9,700
Orleans	1	45,000
Ontario	1	600
Rensselaer	1	1,000
St. Lawrence	2	8,000
Steuben	1	500
Sullivan	2	22,000
Wayne	1	13,000
Westchester	8	110,350
	49	$364,497