

WHITE LEAD SECTION MEETING

New York, N.Y.

August 8, 1945

A meeting of the producers of white lead and mining companies was held at the office of the Lead Industries Association, New York, on August 8, at 10:00 A.M. Present were:

COMPANY

Eagle Picher Company
Euston Lead Company
John R. MacGregor Company
National Lead Company
St. Joseph Lead Company
St. Joseph Lead Company
Sherwin-Williams Company
United States Smelting Refining
& Mining Co. Inc.

REPRESENTATIVE

W. H. Hayt
A. R. Knight
J. R. MacGregor
E. Rowe
I. H. Cornell
E. V. Peters
S. B. Coolidge, Jr.
P. F. Colcord

F. E. Wormser, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M., with the Secretary in the chair.

The Secretary stated that the meeting was being held to discuss the current white lead situation with the view to petitioning the Government to relax its current restrictions on the production and use of white lead, thereby preventing irreparable injury to this important outlet of the lead mining companies.

REVIEW OF LEAD SITUATIONBY MR. CORNELL

Mr. I. H. Cornell reviewed the current lead situation, indicating that the Government's position was becoming increasingly more comfortable, owing to the large importations of lead which have been made. Currently the imports of lead from Mexico and Peru just about offset the demand for Metals Reserve lead leaving the Canadian and Australian imports to augment the Government's stockpile.

It was anticipated that the Government would have a stockpile of 100,000 tons within a few weeks.

The one unfavorable feature was the fact that lead miners are still being drafted from the lead mines so that domestic mine production will probably not increase.

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In addition to imports from Canada and Australia, it is anticipated that shipments will probably be arriving from the Argentine to augment the domestic position.

SECONDARY PRODUCTION

Mr. F. F. Coleord indicated that it was very likely that secondary production would be increased in the fourth quarter.

CURRENT RESTRICTIONS

Some of the white lead producers feared that current restrictions would have a permanent effect on diminishing white lead consumption in the future. Postwar formulations are now being made without lead, with the distinct possibility that they never again would incorporate lead.

It is believed that two important paint manufacturers have already taken steps to turn out exterior paint without any lead in it whatever. One of the manufacturers called attention to the fact that preparations are now being made for next spring's business and that it would be a great pity if the white lead were taken out of the plans now in view of the war's probable termination this year. Because of the added cost when white lead is added to mixed paint formulations, it was held unlikely that once a departure had been made from lead, a return would be made.

It was also noted that government regulations now in force had worked to the detriment of white lead paste and in favor of dry white lead for prepared paint.

STATEMENT FROM PRODUCERS
ON WHITE LEAD SITUATION

It was suggested that the Secretary request each white lead producer to set forth his views on the current white lead situation as affected by Government controls and the effect of reconversion, if there are no changes in the current restrictions in WPI Order H-384.

The Secretary was requested to prepare a statement summarizing the views of the white lead producers with the assistance of interested mining companies, and upon approval of this statement by the Executive Committee, to submit it to Washington in an effort to procure speedy relief for the industry.

It was felt that action should be taken by September 8 if the regulations covering the four-quarter activities are to be modified.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

F. E. Johnson
Secretary