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MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MINING COMPANIES AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN

THE [redacted] CLINIC

March 8, 1932.

[redacted] meeting was called to order by the President of the Tri-State Zinc and [redacted] Owner's Association, Chas. A. Neal. The following were present:

Chas. A. Neal	E. B. Smith
A. Scott Thompson	John Campbell
George Fearing	Frank Childress
L. G. Johnson	Victor Allen
John Reigart	Henry Glessing
H. H. Utley	W. G. Johnson

Dr. A. J. Lanza Dr. R. R. Sayers
Dr. F. V. Meriwether.

The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing with Dr. Sayers and Dr. Lanza the future of the Clinic after June 30, 1932, which terminates the contracts with the U. S. Bureau of Mines and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for cooperation in its support.

Dr. Sayers, Chief Surgeon of the Bureau of Mines, stated that it will be impossible for the Bureau to expend any more funds for the operation of this Clinic. Dr. Lanza, Medical Director of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, stated that the Metropolitan does not expect to appropriate any more funds for the Clinic.

The Chairman then pointed out that the question to be discussed is whether or not the Clinic is to be maintained by the mine operators of the district after June 30th. Mr. John Campbell, of the Eagle Picher Mining & Smelting Co., stated that his company favors the continuing of the Clinic on some reasonable basis and will be glad to cooperate in its maintenance provided its expense can be kept within reason. He stated that his company would expect the Clinic records and the services of the Doctor to be available for use in connection with compensation cases before the Industrial Commission, and before the courts whenever such information or service would be required. Also, it would favor continuing the V.-D. Clinic to the extent of treating only mine employees and their families, and of charging them for this service some very nominal sum for treatment.

Mr. Frank Childress stated that he feels that the Clinic is extremely valuable and that his companies will cooperate in its support on some reasonable basis.

Mr. Henry Glessing, of the Commerce Mining & Royalty Company, stated that he and his company feel that some sort of Clinic must be maintained in the district for the physical examination of employees. He stated that safety work and the work of the Clinic are very closely tied together and that the former cannot function properly without the latter. He felt that the mining companies have not made as much use of the Clinic and of the information which it has given them about employees as should have been made, and that this carelessness has undoubtedly been very expensive in several instances. More interest in preventive measures would make necessary less attention to compensation cases. He stated that compensation for industrial diseases appears to be a very definite possibility in the near future. The full use of clinical data will be very essential when this becomes a reality.

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Mr. L. G. Johnson, of the Federal Mining & Smelting Company, stated that the Clinic has been very beneficial to thedistrict and that he has understood that there would be no question about its perpetuation by the mining companies at the end of the cooperation which has been available from the Bureau of Mines and the Metropolitan.

Mr. H. H. Utley, of the St. Louis Smelting & Refining Company, stated that his company can be counted upon to cooperate in any scheme which is generally satisfactory to the operators of the district for carrying on the Clinic. He stated that Mr. Schwarz and Mr. Caselton are highly favorable to the general type of work done by theClinic.

Mr. W. G. Johnson, of the American Zinc Lead & Smelting Company, stated that it is up to the local industry to look out for itself and its men in the matter of employment, and that his company will cooperate in any plan for carrying on the work of the Clinic.

Mr. Victor Allen, representing the Tri-State Zinc Incorporated, stated that his company is very much in favor of the work being done at the Clinic and can be counted upon to cooperate upon any reasonable basis for its future operation.

Mr. Childress and others stated that the Clinic has been quite as valuable to the employees as it has to employers and that the employee's side of the matter should not be overlooked.

Mr. Scott Thompson stated that Mr. George Coleman, of the Commerce Company, is very much interested in the Clinic and, along with other members of the company, wishes to see it perpetuated. Mr. Thompson questioned Dr. Sayers as to the use of the present clinic records in connection with any problems which might arise in the future affecting workmen or others who have been examined prior to June 30, 1932. Dr. Sayers stated that this would require some study on his part as he could not now say to what extent these records are public property. The U. S. Public Health Service could not sanction the use of any of this information in any way which would be a violation of confidence reposed in a governmental agency. He expects to write to the Secretary of the Association later in answer to this question.

Mr. Thompson asked Dr. Meriwether whether or not there is danger in the treatment of Syphilis in a tubercular patient. Dr. Meriwether stated that the use of Arsphenamine is impossible and that Bismuth is used instead.

Dr. Lanza commented to the effect that the mining companies should not give up what has been achieved by the work of the present Clinic, namely, the general recognition and approval of "Compulsory Physical Examination Before Employment". Regarding the further use of the facilities of the Clinic, he stated that consideration should be given some time to the installation of a program for "Rehabilitation of Injured Employees" who are in the convalescent stage. Such work involves Physio-therapy, Light Therapy, and other measures which are proving very valuable in many places in shortening the period of recovery, and thus in cutting compensation costs. Regarding the W.-D. work, he stated that it is very important to maintain, at least for the treatment of employees and their families, possibly making a nominal charge for these treatments in order to defray the expense.

The question of the publication of the findings of the [illegible] time it has been in existence up to June 30, 1932 was next brought up for discussion. The first report covering the period of operation ending with June 1932, has been prepared and submitted to the Secretary and Counsel of the Association for criticism before publication. This report necessarily involves some things of which the industry is not proud and does not particularly care to have broadcast. Dr. Lanza, in discussing this matter, stated that his company are very anxious to see these reports published, as they are the result of a pioneer investigation which will be very valuable, not only to this district but to other industries with similar problems. He feels that the Tri-State District is very fortunate in being at this time so well informed as to the physical condition of its employees and of the occupational hazards of employment in the district, both of which are now quite obvious, through the work of the Clinic. Other states and industries are having great difficulty, particularly in compensation legislation, due to the fact that they have no such information available. He further stated that the facts revealed in these reports are not new but have already been covered in general by two bulletins covering Miner's Consumption and Silicosis as studied in the old Joplin District a few years ago. He stated that he did not feel that there is any real cause for alarm at the publication of this information.

Dr. Sayers, in discussing this same matter of publication, stated that results of investigations of occupational diseases in other industries have been published during the past few years without any objectionable reactions. He feels that only good will result from making these Tri-State studies available to the country at large, and in particular to the medical profession and to others who are particularly interested in them. In response to a question as to whether or not the Public Health Service or the Bureau of Mines could make available to interested persons reports such as these on the Clinic prior to publication, Dr. Sayers stated that it is impractical to do this and that only by publication can these results become very useful.

Dr. Meriwether stated that following this first report there will be four additional reports for the succeeding years, each of which will show a marked and continuous improvement over the state of affairs covered by the previous report. Thus, the final report will show a condition which indicates a very extensive progress by the industry in handling its own problem without compulsion from any legislative authority.

The Chairman, with the general approval of those present, then appointed a committee to work out a plan for the financing and operation of the Clinic beginning June 30, 1932. On this committee were appointed:

L. S. Johnson, Chairman — Henry Giessing
John Campbell — A. T. St. Clair

together with the Secretary and Counsel of the Association. The committee arranged to have a meeting with Dr. Sayers and Dr. Lanza on Wednesday morning, March 9, at Mr. Thompson's office. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.