

S T A T E M E N T

of

Dr. W. J. Denno, taken on November 7, 1924.

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By Mr. Palmer:

Q. Whom did you designate as a representative from your department to look after the tetra-ethyl work at the Bayway plant?

A. Dr. William Lowe, one of the Company's doctors at Bayway, was designated to examine the men and study their clinical symptoms.

Q. When did he start this work?

A. Early in September - I cannot give you the exact date. I do not think a note was made of it.

Q. Prior
poison

A. Dr.

experiments and observations on rabbits at Bayway. I should say that these experiments probably started in June or July. I was abroad during the summer, and Dr. Thompson carried on some of this investigation during my absence.

. Then, Dr. Lowe knew of the dangers involved in this matter?

. Oh, yes, indeed, Dr. Lowe knew all that any of us knew about it.

It was a new form of lead poison and the symptoms of that poisoning were not known. There is nothing in the text books about it, but careful observation was made of cases that occurred at the Dayton plant of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation. Dr. Thompson studied

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he was directed to keep very careful notes occurred. He was told to examine every at least once a week, and oftener if necessary look out for the definite symptoms that was characteristic of this condition.

Q. Dr. Lowe was on duty at the time they began that is, moved into the new plant?

A. I assigned him to duty before the move was made to the present plant. I relieved him from duty subsequent to the closing of the plant, but

Q. After the move was made to the new plant, did you personally see the lay-out?

A. I, personally, was not in the new plant until it was closed it.

Q. Did Dr. Thompson visit the plant?

A. He visited the plant frequently.

Q. At any time up to the date you had the plant closed, did any member of your department, either Dr. Thompson or any other doctor, consider conditions so serious as to require shutting down of the plant?

A. No; we did not feel that an immediate emergency was required for the immediate shutting down of the plant. It was the Manufacturing Committee to do so, although I was worried because operations were being

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that Dr. Thompeon spoke frequently to the
these recommendations effective.

- Q. In brief, the suggestions made by the doctors
of preventive measures which you thought necessary
as soon as they reasonably required it but
to shut down a plant until they were installed.
- A. I felt that a reasonable amount of time, by
weeks, might be permitted to elapse in order
might carry out the above-mentioned recommendations
during this period, by careful supervision
be kept at work with a reasonable degree of
I have just said, we deplored the fact that
equipment had not been installed before operations
scale were begun.
- Q. Did you personally talk to any of the injured?
- A. I have talked to all of them, I believe, except
- Q. Do you gather from these conversations that
while they were working in the plant they were
dangerous commodities?
- A. My conversations with them have not been along
have talked to them with a view to bringing
to determine their physical conditions. I
safety matter at all as I felt it was not a
I was aware that it had already been fully
of the Special Committee.
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- of August 20, 1924. They were also recommended that the latter that was taken out, multigraphed, and sent to the management for the guidance of the head man.
- Q. Was Dr. Lowe fully aware of the contents of August 20th?
- A. No, because safeguarding the employees was not his job. He was assigned to study the cases from the standpoint. Moreover, the report was the property of the Gasoline Corporation, and the few copies that were subsequently recalled at the request of the corporation.
- Q. What, in brief, is your theory as to the cause of the deaths of the five men?
- A. It is my belief that some unusual occurrence took place. I believe from statements made by some of the employees that the occurrence of several "blow-outs" released a poisonous gas unexpectedly, exposing the employees. It is told of at least two such blow-outs. Up to October practically none of the employees had been exposed serious enough to warrant their being placed in hospital. It is evident to me that there must have been a sudden exposure to poison suddenly superimposed upon the conditions that existed and had been observed by Dr. Lowe.
- Q. Do you know of other plants where this tetra

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manufactured?

A. Yes, it is manufactured by the Du Pont Company. I have never seen their plant. Dr. Thompson has visited both the Dayton plant and that of the Du Ponts. He made these inspections in his capacity as Chairman of the Special Medical Committee.

Q. The idea of all these investigations by this Company and the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation was to do everything possible to improve methods of manufacturing, to safeguard or minimize hazards?

A. That was the purpose, of course. Much thought has been given to that. Dr. Thompson, who is one of the best known experts in the field of industrial poisoning and of industrial diseases, was Chairman of the committee and devoted a great deal of time to the

Investigation.

- Q. Up to the time that you made your inspection, as the result of which you decided to shut down the plant or recommended that it be shut down, Dr. Lowe was satisfied, so far as you know, that the men had been properly schooled in the dangers connected with this work?
- A. No complaints were made to me, but as I have tried to point out, the police work of carrying out the recommendations of the Special Committee was not Dr. Lowe's responsibility.

W. J. DENNO.

Medical Director.

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