

PLAN TO ELIMINATE LEAD POISON PERIL

State Industrial Board Takes Up
Matter With Representatives
of Paint and Varnish Firms.
"Dry Process" Used Here.

An organized fight on the "lead poisoning peril," which threatens workers in paint and varnish factories, was inaugurated yesterday at a meeting of a committee of the Industrial Board of Pennsylvania, held at the Department of Labor and Industry offices in the Morris building. Devices for the elimination of the dangerous lead dust were discussed, and a subcommittee was appointed to draft tentative rules and regulations which would safeguard the employees of the paint plants of this State.

Admitting that the red and white lead dust and the lead salts, which vitiated the air breathed by the workers, was the one great hazard of the paint industry in this country, where the "dry process" is used in making lead paints, the committee yesterday set themselves to the task of effectively combating this peril. The meeting was attended by representatives from some of the largest paint and varnish manufacturers in the State, as well as prominent chemists and others familiar with conditions in the paint industry.

The most effective method advocated for protecting employees from the deadly lead dust was the use of portable hoods, in which is attached a suction hose to collect the dust before it entered the nostrils of the workmen.

Contrast was made between the methods employed in Europe, where the "wet" method of manufacture is employed, and here in this country. It was pointed out, however, that to adopt the wet method in this State alone would mean an outlay of some \$10,000,000 or more, and was not feasible at this time.

Dr. Francis D. Patterson, physician at the plant of Harrison Brothers & Co. of this city, said that the absorption of lead into the system through the skin is almost negligible in the paint industry, but that the real danger lay in breathing it into the lungs. Dr. Patterson was appointed chairman of the subcommittee which will draft the code safety regulations.

Lead in Battery Boxes Blamed for Death of 3

New Castle, Pa., Feb. 23.—(AP).—Mayor Edward Decarbo said today that he had asked several families to stop using old auto battery boxes for fuel after the city health director reported three youngsters died from lead poisoning this week and 12 others were made ill.

The mayor indicated that steps will be taken to stamp out the sale of used battery boxes. Decarbo said Dr. W. A. Wolmer, city health officer, believes the deaths were caused by poisonous fumes which vaporized from lead in the bottom of burned battery holders.

Fuel Tank Poisons 10; 2 in Cleaning Crew Die

Panama, Panama, Aug. 8.—(AP).—A Colombian laborer, delirious from tetraethyl lead poisoning, leaped to his death last night from a second-story hospital window. He was the second death among 10 men poisoned in the past week while cleaning U. S. Air Force aviation gasoline tanks in the Panama Canal Zone.

Of the eight survivors, three have become insane.

173 Workers Ask \$800,000 in Back Pay

Suit was filed in Federal Court today by 173 employees of the Gould-National Batteries, Inc., seeking \$800,000 in back pay which they claim is due them under the Fair Labor Standards Act. **AUG 23 1956 F**

The company, which manufactures batteries, has its plant in Trenton, and an office at 3701 N. Broad st. here.

Meivin A. Bank, attorney for the employees, said that the U. S. Supreme Court ruled in January of this year that any worker exposed to possible lead poisoning should be paid for the time it takes him to change his clothes, wash or take a shower.

The employees' suit contended they are exposed to such poisoning and that Gould-National has failed to pay them for such time, going back over a six-year period.

Six Japanese Die After Cleaning Tank

Yokohama, Japan, Aug. 29.—(AP).—Yokohama University Hospital said today that six Japanese workers who became ill after cleaning a U. S. Army gasoline storage tank have died. Two other Yokohama hospital reported three more in serious condition. Eighteen workers in all became ill last week. Some sources speculated they suffered tetraethyl lead poisoning.

The Army said the workers were employed by a private Japanese contractor. The Army furnished gas masks, rubber boots and gloves and had a soldier present who inspected the equipment before the men entered the tank, an Army spokesman said.

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Prohibition Ended 27 Years Ago, But Bootlegging Still Flourishes

By JAMES V. MAGEE
Of The Bulletin Staff

Tomorrow will be the 27th anniversary of the end of prohibition.

Yet the following warning was issued recently: The making and selling of moonshine is not only illegal—it is dangerous.

This warning was put out by federal revenue agents who have become alarmed over the amount of bootlegged whisky flooding the country.

The agents said they are certain it has been lead and not alcohol that has killed some drinkers of illegal whisky.

Most Found in South
Although most of the lead-tainted moonshine has been found in the South, the problem is not confined to that section, according to Thomas F. Casey, assistant chief of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Enforcement of the Revenue Service.

Casey said considerable quantities of this illegal liquor have been shipped from the South to cities in the North, including Philadelphia.

Agents here said they not only are troubled with the illegal liquor shipped from the South, but they are concerned with the illegal liquor distilled here.

The Philadelphia office is one Philadelphia this past week, 11

of the most seriously affected, (apron operators) were cited spots in the North, the agents said.

Although we have not run up against any serious amount of lead poisoning, it is always a potential danger, they said.

Comes From Solder

Agents believe that a prime source of lead in moonshine comes from solder used to fasten pieces of homemade stills.

Another source of the metallic poison, they said, comes from auto radiators, a favorite makeshift condenser among moonshiners.

Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey have been labeled by agents as being the most troublesome section of the Philadelphia office, which covers Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

Agents said they have confiscated stills in Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey capable of distilling 500 to 1,000 gallons of illegal whisky a day.

Other Problems

Meanwhile the Enforcement Division of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board is having troubles, too.

The board is alarmed at the increasing number of persons refilling liquor bottles.

It was pointed out that in

for refilling whisky bottles with a cheaper brand of liquor than that which the label on the bottle stated.

This also is the time when the

Liquor Control Board has the problem of out-of-state liquor being brought in for Christmas parties or Christmas presents.