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M.C. HANNAN, GEN'L. MGR.

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO, April 17, 1925.

Gerard Swope, President,
General Electric Co.,
120 Broadway,
New York City.

My dear Gerard:

This will be a supplement to my official report of the Fort Wayne plant. I am really very much gratified to see how persistently and thoroughly Mr. Barnes has carried out every single suggestion I made to him last year. The high-table chair which they have produced is the best I have seen anywhere and Mr. Barnes is going to send a specimen of it to Schenectady to demonstrate before the doctors when they assemble for their conference.

Miss Kinna has done excellent work there. I read her reports ~~and~~ turnover and on the tests she made with different varieties of high and low seats, and I was much impressed. She can do accurate research work of high order. But I believe she has come to the end of her usefulness in Fort Wayne. What Mr. Barnes wants is a woman of the Ladies Home Journal type, and Miss Kinna is a woman of the Journal of Industrial Hygiene type. Mr. Barnes believes that the two types could be combined in one person, but I doubt it. It would be a great pity to lose Miss Kinna. Could she not perhaps be placed elsewhere? Perhaps in Erie or Bridgeport, or the Lynn River Works where the problems are much the same as in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Barnes told me of two plants in Chicago which belonged to the General Electric and which I have never visited. One is at 200 S. Robey Street, making X-Ray apparatus, the other is the Edison Electric Appliance Co., in Austin and here they enamel and sandblast. Do you wish me to visit them?

Very sincerely yours.



772

Youngstown, O., April 17, 1935.



General Electric Company,
Plant at Fort Wayne, Ind.

This is my second visit to the apparatus plant in Fort Wayne, Ind., It will be unnecessary for me to make a complete report of the plant and I will simply note the changes that have been made during the past year.

It is gratifying to be able to say that every criticism which I made last year has been met and I am now able to state that the danger has been in each instance lessened or completely abolished. The features which were criticized were as follows:

Benzol was used in formula 462 in such a way that fumes escaped into the air. Now they are using formula 457 which is formula 458 with 60 or 70 degree naptha, and not only are the fumes comparatively harmless but it is said to work better as a coating for paper than 462 with benzol.

The sandblasting, especially of large objects, was open to criticism, although it was better done than in some other plants. The workman was not obliged to enter the sandblast room; he could stand outside and control his work by looking through a window. This window, however, was protected only by a very fine screen and the smallest particles, those which do the most harm when inhaled, were not held back by the screen. I asked at the time whether it would not be possible to have a glass window, but I was told that the particles of sand would soon frost it so that it would be no longer transparent. Now I find a glass pane fixed on the outside of the screen holding back all the fine particles so that the man is completely protected, but the screen prevents the frosting of the glass. As the draft is inward no dust escapes even through the opening for the pipe. I believe this is the best method of sandblasting to be found in any of the General Electric plants. The situation is not quite so good in the tumbling work for there is some leaking, but this is probably preventable and the small objects are treated on a turn-table which allows no dust to escape. The only criticism I should make of the sandblast department has to do with the supply room. Here there is a collector for the used sand which is, of course, an extremely fine powder, and when this must be emptied an excessive quantity of dust escapes and takes a long time to subside because it is so light. A layer of it can be seen covering the fresh sand. It would be better if