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Meeting of the Railroad Engineering and Shop Committee

C O P Y

November 28th, 1936

Messrs.

J. P. Morris, Division Master Mechanic,
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Co.,
80 E. Jackson Boulevard,
Chicago, Illinois.

E. B. Hall,
General Superintendent Motive Power & Machinery,
Chicago & North Western Railway Company,
Keeler Avenue and Kinzie Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. D. B. Moss, Chief Medical Officer,
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. R. Co.,
547 W. Jackson Boulevard,
Chicago, Illinois.

C. L. Emerson, Division Master Mechanic,
Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific R. R. Co.,
Union Station,
Chicago, Illinois.

R. A. Mason, Shop Engineer,
Illinois Central System,
Room 910,
135 E. 11th Place,
Chicago, Illinois.

T. P. Ball, Master Mechanic,
New York Central Railroad Company,
634 LaSalle Street Station,
Chicago, Illinois.

Gentlemen:

At the first meeting of the Railroad Engineering and Shop
Committee, held on November 25th, the following were present:

J. P. Morris, Division Master Mechanic, Santa Fe
L. H. Cota, Asst. to Mechanical Supt., Santa Fe
T. F. Powers, Asst. Supt. Motive Power & Machinery, C. & N.W.
J. C. Stump, Asst. Supt. Motive Power & Machinery, C. & N.W.
D. B. Moss, Chief Medical Officer, C. B. & Q.
C. L. Emerson, Division Master Mechanic, C.M.St.P. & P.
R. A. Mason, Shop Engineer, I.C.
T. P. Ball, Master Mechanic, N.Y.C.
J. W. Freels, Local Attorney, I.C.
Armstrong Chinn, Chief Engineer, Alton.

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At the meeting Mr. Freels gave a general outline of what the committee is to do. The committee will study the several acts (Workmen's Occupational Diseases Act, Grinding, Buffing & Polishing Equipment Sanitation Act, Health, Safety and Comfort Law) and decide wherein they affect the railroads, and what rules may be required to meet conditions of employment on the railroads. When the committee has decided what conditions of employment require rules, assignments will be made to each committee member for study and the committee, as a whole, will consider the results of these individual studies and from them will prepare the rules for the railroads that we are to furnish Mr. Freels.

In the meantime, as our first work, we are to give consideration to and recommend what action seems immediately advisable to protect the railroads from the following possible occupational diseases:

1. Asbestosis, from handling asbestos materials, such as boiler lagging.
2. Lead Poisoning, from handling lead, such as babbitting brasses.
3. Silicosis, from long, continued use of portable grinders.
4. Anthraco-Silicosis, from coal dust, such as employees are exposed to around coal chutes.

Will you please give consideration to these matters, and be prepared to report at the next meeting of the committee, which will be held in the rooms of the General Managers' Association of Chicago in the Union Station at 10:00 A.M., Monday, December 21st.

For your information, I attach the following leaflets, issued by the Department of Labor, on occupational diseases:

1. Anthraco-Silicosis
2. Arsenic Poisoning
3. Benzol (Benzene) Poisoning
4. Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
5. Chromium Poisoning
6. Industrial Skin Diseases
7. Lead Poisoning
8. Mercury Poisoning
9. Silicosis.

Yours truly,

(S) Armstrong Chinn
Chairman,
Railroad Engineering and Shop
Committee

CC: Messrs.

H.B. Voorhees,
S.H. Schneider,
J.W. Freels,

C.M. House,---I attach a set of leaflets for your information. This is a matter in which I think you are much interested, and on which, I believe, you are now preparing a report covering the results of your survey of conditions in the Alton's shops and roundhouses. Any suggestions from you will be much appreciated by the Committee.

A.C.