

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT FROM
MR. NOBLE TO MR. TULLY ON
TRIP THROUGH NETH. EAST
INDIES AND MALAY PENINSULA

August 9, 1938

SOURABAYA, JAVA - July 15, 1938

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Mr. de Vos produced a letter from his London office telling him to discuss with me the question of a doctor to be selected in Sourabaya, to act on behalf of the Ethyl Export Corporation. Mr. de Vos submitted the name of one Dr. Hammacher, whom he took me along to see. Mr. de Vos and I had about an hour's conversation with Dr. Hammacher during which time I endeavoured to point out our requirements which I think he understands. However, I made it quite clear to both Mr. de Vos and Dr. Hammacher that his appointment was subject to confirmation from both the head office of the Shell Company, London, and the London office of the Ethyl Export Corporation.

Dr. Hammacher has had previous experience of lead, since he carried out some research on this subject and was responsible for the examination of a number of men some years ago in Holland, who had been exposed to lead. I understood that the personnel he had previously examined were mainly painters.

No fluid has yet been ordered for this plant, but as soon as Mr. de Vos can see far enough ahead as to the completion of the plant, he will order it through London.

TANJON PRIOK, BATAVIA - July 19, 1938

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The doctor at Tanjon Priok whom the Asiatic has selected to act for the Ethyl Export Corporation was away on his annual holiday of three weeks, and I was unable to see him, but to the best of my ability I told Mr. Klaason what was required which, of course, is not satisfactory. I understand that the doctor they have selected for Batavia, one Dr. W. F. de Priester is a K.L.M. doctor and is used to handling industrial examinations, but since I did not have the opportunity of speaking to him, I cannot recommend that he be employed by the Ethyl Export Corporation. A mixing tank is to be constructed at the plant to give 100 tons storage, also a storage tank is to be built which will really be used as a working tank of 30 tons. There is also available and in use an 800 ton aviation tank which is used to hold base stock and no leaded petrol is to be in it at all.

N.V. NEDERLANDSCHE KOLONIALE PETROLEUM MIJ.
Soengei Gerong, Sumatra - July 21, 1938

This plant operated by Standard (New Jersey) is one of the best kept and cleanest blending plants that it has been my good fortune to see. The actual platform and changing rooms were spotless and Mr. Cock who looks after it obviously takes a great pride in doing so. Most of the drums of fluid for this plant are received at Batavia, where the shipment is inspected and trans-shipped to Palembang. Inspection report forms are made out at both Batavia and Palembang and forwarded to London. However, they do get an occasional shipment at Palembang straight from New York, and on a recent shipment they had five leaky drums, but I understand this has been reported to London. The leaks were only at the seams and precautionary measures were immediately taken on arrival to stop the leaks by caulking the seams with asphalt. One leaky drum was also received in a shipment at Batavia, and the whole drum was placed in an old asphalt drum and sealed up with asphalt. Mr. Cock told me that when handling these leaky drums the personnel were equipped with the correct clothing and masks and gloves.

One of the Europeans, a Dutchman, engaged on mixing, I discovered was 48 years of age, this being over the upper age limit allowable by the Ethyl Export Corporation for those engaged in mixing. I spoke to the refinery doctor who acts for the Ethyl Export Corporation and he is removing him from mixing on these grounds. This is the only criticism I have of this plant, and it is one which cannot be fairly levelled on the plant operators since no amendment as to the age limit for blending personnel had been received by them from London. I would point out that none of the plants I visited had received any such amendments.

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