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National Safety County Report

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ORGANIZED 1898

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May 27, 1932

Mr. Nelson J. Darling, Manager,
General Electric Company,
West Lynn, Mass.

Dear Mr. Darling:

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL
- Report on Health Protection in Sand-
blasting and Metal Abrasive Blasting

You are, no doubt, more or less familiar with the
above mentioned report with reference to foundry dust
hazard.

On June 13th, the Executive and Administrative Board
of the National Safety Council will hold a meeting
in New York to decide whether or not the report shall
be published as originally written or in amended form.

Many of the members of the National Foundry Association whom we have consulted in the matter, feel that
in view of the agitation and litigation pending and
threatened by persons who claim to have had their
health impaired due to foundry dust, smoke, gas and
vapors, this is no time for the National Safety
Council, or any other organization, to bring out a
report emphasizing the hazard of foundry dust, as
such a report will only add fuel to the flames, is
liable to cause unlimited expense and damage to the
foundry industry, and at this time can serve no use-
ful purpose. We feel, therefore, that this report
should be held in abeyance by the National Safety
Council, and the whole subject be given further con-
sideration.

There is a rumor to the effect that Dr. C. E. A.
Winslow, Professor of Public Health, Yale Medical
School, New Haven, Conn., one of the authors of the
report for the National Safety Council, and Dr.
Leonard Greenburg, formerly of the United States
Department of Health, have been engaged by the
American Radiator Company to do considerable re-



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search work for them. Prof. Winslow and Dr. Greenburg are particularly insistent that the above mentioned report be released for publication.

Executives of the General Electric Company, we know, are in rather close contact with Mr. C. M. Woolley, President of the American Radiator Company, and the purpose of this letter is to request your assistance in reaching Prof. Winslow and Dr. Greenburg, through Mr. Woolley, and point out to them the reasonableness of the request of the foundry industry that this report be held in abeyance and given further consideration.

Mr. C. E. Hoyt, of the American Foundrymen's Association, has just called to my attention the enclosed copy of a news item from the New York Sun of May 23rd, with reference to eighteen suits involving \$1,600,000 against Rochester, N. Y., and Massachusetts concerns, by individuals who claim to have had their health impaired due to dust conditions.

Your Mr. Ballard is quite familiar with this subject and also with the alarming number of damage suits now pending in the Middle West. It seems to us that any report spread broadcast by the National Safety Council calling attention to silicosis or the danger from foundry dust, smoke, gas and vapors, can serve no useful purpose at the present time, and in all probability will tend to promote more widespread and extended litigation.

This past week, one of our members in Wisconsin has succeeded in winning a suit for damages brought by a molder who claimed impaired health due to silicosis, but who had never been employed in the Cleaning Department. The expense of the litigation, however, will probably cost the Company in excess of \$15,000, as they were obliged to bring in some of the most eminent physicians in the United States to support their case.

It is unnecessary for me to mention to you the active interest the N.F.A. has taken for more than 25 years in promoting safety in the foundry, as your Company has played a very important part in the Association's work in this regard.

We feel that if Prof. Winslow and Dr. Greenburg would not insist that this report be published, which they were largely instrumental in preparing, that the Administrative Board of the

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National Safety Council could be induced to hold the matter in abeyance and give the subject further consideration.

Assuring you of our appreciation of your co-
operation, we are

very truly yours

AEE-F

Commissioner.

(From New York Sun, Monday, May 23, 1932)

18 ASK \$1,600,000 AS SILICOSIS PREY

Lawyer Says Sand Blasters Will Die of Malady

Rochester, May 23 (A. P.) Damage actions involving total claims of \$1,600,000 have been started here by sixteen Rochester and two Massachusetts men who allege that they contracted silicosis through wearing defective protective apparatus while sand-blasting for two local concerns.

The Merchants Despatch Transportation Company is named as defendant in fifteen of the actions and the Eastman Kodak Company in one. The Massachusetts plaintiffs are George Valliere of North Adams and John H. Miller of Worcester. Their attorney, William L. Clay, says that the men eventually will die of the malady. They seek \$100,000 each.

Defendant attorneys in some of the actions maintain that the cases are covered by the workmen's compensation law, while W. Clyde O'Brien, representing the Eastman Kodak Company, has moved for dismissal of the complaint against that concern on the ground that the company is covered by insurances against such a claim.