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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1936.

SILICOSIS PROBLEM IN STATE AT 'CRISIS'

Andrews Paper, Read at Capital Parley, Cites Move to Modify Compensation Law.

HAZARD HELD 'ON WAY OUT'

New Appliances Promising, Research Aide Says—Miss Perkins Urges Broad Plan.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—Elmer F. Andrews, New York State Industrial Commissioner, in a memorandum placed before the national conference on silicosis, held here today upon the call of Secretary Perkins, said that an emergency situation existed in silica dust hazard industries in New York State.

The memorandum, presented by Dr. Leonard Greenburg, director of the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the New York State Department of Labor, declared that the problem of silicosis prevention has become acute for employers in recent years because of compensation law damage suits aggregating millions.

Under a law adopted last year in New York, Commissioner Andrews said, silicosis was made a compensable disease, but employers were subjected to "staggering insurance premiums" and the employes were also adversely affected.

"Many plants were faced with the threat of shutdowns," he went on, "which would put hundreds of skilled workers on the street and add heavy to the relief rolls."

In the end, he added, a bill drastically limiting compensation for silicosis was prepared, and is now before the Legislature. He said the bill was not a good one, but "we are confronted with an emergency."

"The workers want their jobs back," he added. "They are willing to forego a portion of their compensation in order to work. Industry does not want to close its plants."

Arthur C. Fink of the Air Hygiene Foundation of America, an organization of 1,000 companies, asserted that mechanical appliances have developed "to such a degree that the menace of dust hazard is already on its way out."

John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, said that workmen who have been X-rayed and found silicotic have been discharged, only to learn that other employers were unwilling to place them on the payroll.

Where silicosis exists, he added, nobody questioned the need for X-ray examinations, but labor questioned "the justice of discharge or the payment of lower wage rates at some other occupation."

Secretary Perkins, in opening the meeting, said that silicosis appears in some degree from 500,000 wage earners. She advocated a comprehensive plan for workmen's compensation in connection with silicosis and other dust diseases.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
IHF-246

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4/15/36

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