

AIR MAIL

March 1, 1944

Mr. R. E. Dwyer, Executive Vice President  
Anaconda Copper Mining Company  
25 Broadway  
New York 4, New York

Dear Mr. Dwyer:

The following is a brief statement relative to the January, 1944 operations at the East Chicago plant:

LEAD REFINING DEPARTMENT

The income for the month:

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Lead Refinery    | \$5,682.13 |
| Bismuth Refining | 858.68     |

During January the Lead Refinery treated 3,813 tons of material including 3,814 tons of Tootle bullion and 1,197 tons of East Helena bullion.

Unfavorable factors influencing the January income at the Lead Refinery are as follows:

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Repairs to roof on Refinery building  | \$2,579.86 |
| Repairs to blast furnace charge floor | 890.86     |

The amount of lead in inventory at the close of January was reduced to 8,631,421 pounds and the silver in inventory was reduced to 768,086 ounces. This represents a reduction of 1,927,617 pounds of lead and 192,949 ounces of silver during the month.

ZINC OXIDE DEPARTMENT

During January No. 1 Muffle Furnace was operated for 31 days on the production of zinc oxide, and No. 4 Muffle Furnace was operated for 24 days on the production of zinc oxide and 8 days on the production of slab zinc. The six-door American Block was operated for 31 days.

The income for the month is shown as follows:

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Zinc Oxide | \$4,369.96 |
| Zinc Metal | 174.71     |

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Favorable factors influencing the January income were the low proportion of American Process oxide sold, a reduction in the cost of producing American Process zinc oxide due to the reduction in cost of Great Falls dress and the increased proportion of muffle dress and off-grade oxide treated.

Repairs to two Muffle Furnaces in January amounted to \$3,436.98

#### WHITE LEAD DEPARTMENT

The Profit and Loss Statement reveals the following:

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Dry White Lead | \$2,943.98 |
| Lead-in-Oil    | 3,425.40   |

During the month 318 tons of dry white lead were sold. The profit shown is due largely to lower operation costs.

#### CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE INTEREST IN ZINC OXIDE

The Chemical Warfare Service still seems interested in our zinc oxide. Mr. Gormley of the New York office is working with the Chemical Warfare Service in an endeavor to arrange a satisfactory basis for possible future business.

#### LABOR

Meetings have been held with representatives of the Union to discuss the renewal of the present contract on February 10th, 17th and 23rd. A colored business agent, whose name is Arthel Shelton, has taken over for the Union and is apparently trying to create as much commotion as possible.

#### FUTURE PLANS

Changes in the bismuth concentration of roaster residue at Anaconda have resulted in a reduced tonnage of high bismuth bullion, with a corresponding increase in the bismuth content. Due to these altered conditions, it will not be necessary to operate the Betts plant. The White Lead plant has been operated on the basis of 20 tons per day since February 1st. A review of the white lead situation will be made at the end of 30 days.

We are making a study of possible cheap raw material for use on the American Block in place of the expensive Great Falls dress. We are again reviving our past investigations of East Helena and Toccoa fume to determine if these materials might be satisfactory.

#### FIRE PROTECTION

Because of the recent experiences, we have taken more than the normal precautions to bring our fire protection equipment and personnel up to a first-class condition.

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Mr. R. E. Dwyer

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LEAD ABSORPTION

A special committee has been appointed to study and take action on conditions which appear to be conducive to lead absorption. Even with the present high rate of labor turnover, we have had several cases of lead absorption. The increase of women employees makes this action necessary.

Very truly yours,

*H. J. Hurless*

GHJ/ab

cc: Mr. Frederick Laist ✓

Mr. F. O. Case  
Mr. F. H. Hurless

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