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Occupational Diseases Are Not Generally Understood

HAZARDS SHOULD BE STUDIED

Increase of Problem and New Plan of National Council Demand Better Field Knowledge

The growing seriousness of the occupational disease problem in underwriting workmen's compensation, and filing by the National Council on Compensation Insurance of a schedule of so-called "hazard weights" in Michigan, to be applied in other non-regulated states as speedily as possible, makes necessary some understanding of the various diseases which come under this classification.

Curiously enough, there are many underwriters who do not know a great deal about occupational diseases. For instance, silicosis is recognized as one of the most hazardous of these ailments arising from industry, it resulting from inhalation of dust in stone cutting processes. However, it is not generally known that the wet method of stone grinding and polishing is actually more hazardous than the dry method.

Wet Method Most Hazardous

It is generally assumed that when water is used to retain the dust and keep it from flying, no other protection is needed. An agency engineer and a home office underwriter recently passed such a risk upon the explanation it was a wet grinding process, after ordering cancellation on the assumption that it was the dry method.

While inhalation of the dry particles, especially over a long period, is almost certain to cause some degree of silicosis, nevertheless the lungs are able to expel many of these particles. It is explained, however, that when a workman inhales the stone dust in a moist condition, as it is thrown off to some degree in the grinding operation, the particles more easily find permanent lodgment in the lungs. It is evident from this illustration that it behooves underwriters to make a closer study of the nature of these diseases.

Some of the more hazardous occupations involving occupational diseases on which the companies for some time have been refusing agencies the right to bind or issue policies, even in emergency cases, are:

Rock excavation—silicosis; quarries, stone crushing, hatters' fur manufacturing; hat manufacturing—not straw or cloth, all operations excluding hatters' fur manufacturing; fur manufacturing, cleaning and dyeing, rubber reclaiming, rubber goods manufacturing, rubber tire manufacturing, wire insulation, artificial leather, type foundries, battery manufacturing—storage; airplane manufacturing, cement manufacturing, emery works, stone cutting and polishing, asbestos goods manufacturing—N. O. C.; asbestos goods manufacturing—spinning and weaving; paint manufacturing, lead manufacturing—red or white; chemical and dyestuff rating plan; acid manufacturing, N. O. C., heavy, medium, light.

The companies have been requiring in such cases that a questionnaire form be executed with any information in the agency's possession and forwarded to the company for advices as to what requirements will be imposed.

Any processes involving asbestos are considered especially hazardous, for the asbestos fibers appear to be difficult to expel from the lungs.

Sets Time Limit on Claims

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—As liquidator of the New Jersey Fidelity & Plate Glass of Newark, Commissioner Kelly of New Jersey has formally notified that all claims against the defunct carrier must be filed with him on or before Dec. 31, 1932.

Scrutinize Injury Awards Where Insurance Is Factor

PIERRE, S. D., Dec. 14.—Jury verdicts in cases where liability insurance is involved will be scrutinized "with care" by the South Dakota supreme court, it was stated when the court reduced from $12,000 to $7,000 an injury award to T. J. Biggin of Sioux Falls, S. D.

Holding that the $12,000 awarded by the Minnehaha county circuit court was excessive, the court took cognizance of the fact that the jury was informed that the defendant, C. R. Wagner, carried liability insurance.

Lloyds of America Agency Men Now Hitting Stride

The new Lloyds Insurance Company of New York, formed by the consolidation of the Lloyds Casualty, Constitution Indemnity and the Detroit Fidelity & Surety, has been licensed in Illinois. New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan and other states have also issued licenses. The branch office of the Lloyds Casualty in Chicago will be the branch for the consolidated company. The consolidated company shows assets of $12,391,440, loss reserve $4,920,935, premium reserve $2,620,233, contingent reserve $500,000, security depreciation reserve $1,164,433, capital $1,000,000, net surplus $1,500,000.

Vice-presidents D. M. Maggin and Ralph J. Daly are in Chicago visiting the branch office and F. P. Stanley, the new vice-president and head of the agency department, will be in the city after Jan. 1. The Lloyds Casualty people are out on the firing line visiting agents in various sections. Mr. Stanley is in New York state this week. Vice-president Franklin Vanderbilt is on an agency visit.

Russell S. Chaloner has been appointed manager of the casualty department at Chicago and R. L. Gueydan, who has been in charge of surety there for the Detroit Fidelity & Surety, continues in that capacity with Lloyds. T. J. McNally has resigned as manager of the office.

Mr. Chaloner's last connection was with the Royal Indemnity at Chicago. He was manager there for five years for the Norwich Union Indemnity at Chicago and was connected with the Travelers there for seven years, most of the time having the title of assistant manager. He is a former president of the Insurance Club of Chicago.

Motion Was Dismissed

Judge Harry M. Fisher of the circuit court at Chicago has denied the motion for the appointment of a receiver for the American Mutual Indemnity and held that the company had the right to collect assessments from its policyholders. A considerable part of the collections have already been made and the remainder is in progress.

Barred from California

According to legal notice appearing Dec. 13 in San Francisco papers, signed by Commissioner Mitchell, the Benjamin Franklin Bonding & Indemnity has no further authority to operate in California as the result of its failure to repair a deficiency of more than $190,000 in capital. Following the original notification by Mr. Mitchell 60 days ago, the company's officials charged attempted solicitation of a bribe of $10,000 on the part of a department employe.

Lewis Louisville Claim Manager

R. N. Lewis, formerly with the claim department of the Travelers in Milwaukee, has been appointed claim department manager in Louisville, succeeding W. A. Reedy, who has been transferred to St. Louis.

Some Carriers Now Permi
More Cases to Go to T

BACKBONES ARE STIFFE

Seek to Eradicate Notion Settlemer Always Effected When Attorne Is Employed

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—In vie
the fact that so many automobile
bility claims are coming through t
days with attorneys' liens attache
number of the large casualty compa
have adopted the policy of permi
more cases to go to trial than form
These companies feel that the no
should be eradicated that a settler
can always be obtained when an a
ney is employed. There is a notice
stiffening of the backbone on the
of many companies and a dispos
not to be gouged in unwarranted
merely because an attorney is i
ested.

Some executives are watching
policy anxiously. Although many
which are permitted to go to trial
seem to be air tight so far as the
panies are concerned, in a few y
when the case comes to trial, witn
may have disappeared or have beer
proached by counsel for the plaintiff
induced to change their story. The
ture may change in a few years anc
plaintiff's case may seem stronger.
ecutives can appraise their liability
some degree of accuracy when se
ments are effected, but they are not
what the experience will be if a la
number of cases are permitted to g
trial. The results will not be know
several years and in the mean tim
amount of liability is indeterminat

Despite this uncertainty, a numb
executives feel that the comp
sooner or later must adopt a more
compromising attitude. The numb
attorneys who are preying upon i
ance companies is growing all the
and the fear is that if the comp
continue to capitulate, the evil wil
crease by almost geometrical pr
tions.

Van Schaick Defends Powe

Briefs have been filed in behal
Superintendent Van Schaick of
York in the case involving the rig
the department to assess fines ag
insurance companies for violation
the insurance law. The case is b
the New York court of appeals or
peal from the order of the app
division voiding in part a determin
of Superintendent Van Schaick ag
the now defunct New Jersey Fideli
Plate Glass, which in October a
ago was fined $10,000 by the depart
for violation of sections 141 and 1
in the writing of automobile polici

Counsel for the New Jersey Fi
& Plate Glass contends that a
against the company should have
turned over to the attorney-general
suant to section 2 of the public of
law.

Medical Feature Approve

Virtually all states have now ap
the medical reimbursement fe
adopted by many of the personal
dent and health companies. At th
cent gathering of insurance con
sioners in New York City, the s
committee endorsed the pro rata
ture of the reimbursement form.

McManus Elected Director

J. H. McManus, general agent o
Maryland Casualty at Hartford
many years, has been elected a di
of the company.

Mrs. L. R. Swezey, wife of the
dent vice-president of the Globe In
nity at San Francisco, died at Pied
Cal., Dec. 11 following a long illn