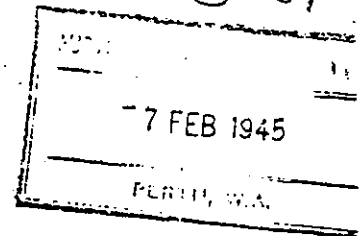


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STAFF.

WITTENOOM.

1st February, 1945

The Managing Director,
Australian Blue Asbestos Ltd.

Dear Sir,

In my absence from Wittenoom some trouble arose between Mr. Wallace and I. Dignam the mill foreman, and as Mr. Hancock has taken steps to give Dignam other work temporarily he was asked to put in writing some details of the trouble. His letter to me is enclosed.

Unfortunately, there is little doubt that the comments made by Mr. Hancock are, in the main, correct and that Mr. Wallace's ability and resource are below the standard necessary to satisfactorily perform the duties of chief engineer in this mill.

There are innumerable essential jobs which can be done by Dignam in a few minutes and which take anyone else much longer to do; in fact, usually there is no-one else available. Mr. Wallace's greatest weakness is his inability to see the importance of these jobs and to co-operate in getting them done. Consequently friction is often the result because of some petty point.

With the work at the settlement in progress, other buildings being erected and material required for the mine at all times the motor trucks are a bottleneck and often the despatching of and minor repairs to these vehicles are a job of highest priority. While construction work of this nature is in progress, Dignam is far better suited and more useful in this way than as foreman in the mill, and it would speed up this part of the construction if, for the time being, he attended to this primarily, and worked in the mill when it is not crushing.

Replacement of Mr. Wallace would be beneficial but it would be better at present to have no-one rather than an engineer who is not experienced in practical mill work.

Yours truly,

Manager.

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