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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 Aids Say—Miss Perkins Urges Broad Plan.

Special to The New York Times.
WASHINGTON, April 14.—Chas. 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 Greenberg, 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 common law damage suits aggregating millions.

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

"Many plants were faced with the threat of shutdown," he went on. "which would put hundreds of skilled workers on the street and add misery to the poor folk."

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 leave a portion of their compensation in order to work. Industry does not want to close its plants."

Alfred C. Smith of the Air Hygiene Foundation of America, an organization of 1,000 companies, asserted that industrial appliances have developed "to such a degree that the existence of a 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 workers 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 damage or the payment of lower wage rates at some other occasion."

Secretary Perkins, in opening the meeting, said that silicosis appeared in some degree in 20,000 wage earners. She advocated a comprehensive plan for workers' compensation in connection with silicosis and other dust diseases.



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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 silicosis dust hazard industries in New York State.

The memorandum, presented by Dr. Leonard Greenberg, 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 several years because of common 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 employees were also adversely affected.

"Many plants were faced with the threat of shutdown," he went on, "which would put hundreds of skilled workers on the street and add misery to the public 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 must have their jobs back," he added. "They are willing to forgo a portion of their compensation in order to work. Industry does not want to close its plants."

Alfred C. Smith 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 existence of a 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 exposure in some degree takes 100,000 wage-earners. She advanced a comprehensive plan for workmen's compensation in connection with silicosis and other dust diseases.

