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(mines) 1944

October 25, 1944

Dr. NORMAN L. Burnette
Assistant Secretary
Canadian Road Office

Dear Norman:

Your questionnaire regarding community health services and living conditions, which you planned to send to the Nurses in communities in which we are making the tuberculosis mortality study, reached me today. I think it covers everything we talked about Saturday and should give us the necessary information. If it seems necessary and we are in doubt about conditions it may be possible for me to make an inspection visit later on. I assume from your letter that you can secure the information from a trusted source known to you in Pimouski. If you are in doubt about a source in Asbestos, I believe I can secure this information through Dr. Smith, the assistant to Dr. Stevenson at Canadian Johns-Manville in Asbestos.

I have several questions which I did not take up with you on Saturday which relate to my visit. (1) Dr. Graham Ross, Medical Director of National Breweries, Montreal, was interested in our industrial health material. He has about 25 physicians in his professional organization which he and Dr. Bildfell, Medical Director of Aluminum Company of Canada, are organizing. He could use 25 copies of appropriate literature for these men. Do you have supplies of our Industrial Health Series and do you wish to supply Dr. Ross with them? (2) Mr. C. M. McGaw, in charge of Industrial Relations of Canadian Johns-Manville, Asbestos, Que., is interested in having health education material for educational work with their employees in Asbestos. They have become quite active in safety education and now want to turn to health education. He wanted to be supplied with the health education material which we have available. Do you have literature you can send him? If not, what do you wish done? I might also mention that Mr. McGaw raised the question about nursing service. He said that the impression had been given them that they would have nursing service when the insurance was purchased. I explained that we provide nursing service where it is available and that would not necessarily follow the contract. You perhaps know the background of this and you may wish to say something to him.

In connection with the nursing service, I gave Miss Chess the names of the managers of the two mines we insure in Thetford, Mr. J. C. Smith of the Bell Mines, and Mr. Andrew Johnson, of Johnson's Mine. She is planning to call on them this week.

(3) Mr. Ivan Sabourin is also interested in Metropolitan health literature. I shall arrange to put him on the Statistical Bulletin mailing list, but am in doubt as to what you prefer to do about other health literature. Would

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you prefer to send him material in which you think he would be interested through the Head Office or would you wish us to do so?

While I was at RCA in Canada I met Dr. Kaufman, Mr. McCallum, and Mr. Rousseau; Medical Director, Personnel Director, and Safety Director respectively. Their claim rate, as you know, is running currently around 40 per 1,000, according to data which they have at hand. Peak was reached during August, which was more than twice this rate, I believe. Dr. Kaufman does not believe that these claims are all for legitimate illness. He is particularly critical of the part played by the Company Medical Examiners in claim administration. He said they were poorly trained for their work and their follow-up visits did not aid in the control of malingering. He stated that the Company should employ laboratory diagnostic tests such as blood examination, x-rays, etc., to check up on vague diagnoses submitted by attending physicians. The predominant diagnoses are neurasthenia, weakness, anemia, etc., and occur among the female employees, particularly in the radio assembly department, which has about 90 percent females.

In Asbestos Dr. Stevenson, who is the Johns-Manville physician, is also Medical Examiner for the Company. He mentioned that employees were abusing their A&H insurance. He has talked with local physicians about their signing of certificates and their excuse is that they are accommodating the patients. One of the attending physicians suggested that the Company print in bold letters on the form, which is given to the attending physician to fill out, that the insurance is not intended to cover vacations, rest periods, etc.

I did not know whether this comes within your province, but I thought that I would pass it on to you to do whatever you see fit.

Sincerely yours,

George W. Whentley, M.D.
Assistant Medical Director