Asbestos
October 19 1951

MEDICAL PROGRAM

The Company first made use of medical service for the treatment of accident cases in 1890. In 1918, Dr. R. H. Stevenson was engaged part-time by the Company and the first first-aid dressing station was set up in 1920. In the next couple of years this was expanded to include an operating room, two bedrooms and an office. In 1927, a small portable x-ray machine was purchased.

In 1930, the Medical Department began pre-employment and annual physical examinations.

In 1936 the Company purchased a large stationary x-ray machine.

In 1947 the old hospital had become obsolete and a new hospital and nurses' home were erected in 1948. The present hospital is one of the most modern of its kind in Canada.

Up to December 1, 1945 the Company doctor was employed only two afternoons a week. Following his retirement, he was replaced by a full-time doctor, in order to continue annual examinations in the face of steadily increasing employment. At this time a part-time surgeon was engaged to look after accident surgery and first-aid. This left the Company doctor free for examinations, consultations and time to carry on an extensive medical program.

At the present time we are in the process of engaging a new Company doctor to replace Dr. K. W. Smith, who left our employ on October 15th. We are also planning to engage a part-time doctor to assist the Company doctor with physical examinations, in order that it will be possible to return to annual examinations. Employment has increased to such an extent that periodic examinations have been running three and four years behind.

Dr. K. W. Smith is being retained on a consulting basis for week-ends, in order to do examinations, give advice and carry on special assignments as required, with the option of cancellation of this arrangement on sixty (60) days notice.

Each employee is referred to the Company doctor before he can be transferred from a non-dusty to a dusty occupation. In this way, illness from exposure to asbestos dust is avoided.

In trying to obtain a new Company doctor one problem has arisen in regard to salary. Most local doctors with a private practice in this area earn over $15,000. a year clear. To obtain a good man it will likely be necessary to go considerably beyond the maximum hiring rate provided in our salary administration plan.

1100-3813

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11179/1