Personal and Confidential

February 3, 1950

H. H. Peterson

Silicosis
February 2

Thanks for letting us see the clipping and for giving us the information that came with it in your memo of February 2 about the meeting with Dr. A. H. Riddell, of the Ontario Workmen Board at Toronto, recently. I am passing this clipping on through high darkness to be returned to you as you requested.

The information as to the cause of silicosis, as to the fact that it is a progressive disease, that of itself it does not usually cause death, but in such cases death ensues when it is complicated by tuberculosis, and that those with silicosis seem more susceptible to tuberculosis, is in keeping with the information already known.

Legislation, both in Canada and in the United States, makes it more and more hazardous to employ people who have had exposure to dusts that will produce silicosis, to employ people who have silicosis, and to permit conditions to exist in our own operations that will produce it. Accordingly, I think our job continues to be the same

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(1) Examine carefully applicants for jobs and their history so as to avoid employing silicotics, and

(2) See that our operations are kept in such condition that our people do not get silicosis.

There was mention in the same article of lung cancer and the fact that it is an occupational disease in certain industries. Dr. Riddell mentioned the higher rate at the Canadaware Gas Company depot in Toronto. I am not sure just what this means nor whether we have situations of a similar nature.

This would bear investigation and I suggest that Dr. Smith give us a memo about any similar condition he thinks we have in S-M.

J. P. Woodard

cc: A. H. Fisher
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