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ASBESTOS BRAKE LININGS | ASBESTOS CLUTCH FACINGS | ASBESTOS TEXTILES | ASBESTOS PACKINGS

ASBESTOS TEXTILE COMPANY, INC.

165 West Wacker Drive
CHICAGO 1, ILLINOIS

FACTORY
NORTH BROOKFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS
BELL SYSTEM
TELETYPE N. BROOK 168

GENERAL OFFICES
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
PHONE: STA. 0081
BELL SYSTEM
TELETYPE CG 151

April 18, 1946

Mr. Vandiver Brown,
Johns-Manville Sales Corporation,
22 E. Fortieth Street,
New York 16, New York.

NOTED

Dear Mr. Brown:

Last week I had a lengthy visit with Mr. Bowditch here, at which time I had the opportunity to discuss with him the matter of the test conducted by Dr. Gardner in the interest of asbestosis and the manufacturers of asbestos textiles who provided the necessary funds. I mentioned that we had not had a final report from Dr. Gardner although it had been promised quite some time ago.

I spoke of an appropriation for the Building Fund Dr. Gardner is interested in and suggested that the Asbestos Textile people would likely be more interested and generous if the report from Dr. Gardner might be forthcoming.

Mr. Bowditch indicated we might be disappointed in Dr. Gardner's report and suggested that he might be reluctant, as a scientist, to go so far as to say what his preliminary report indicated, that the invisible dust was not injurious even though his test and his preliminary report was quite conclusive, at least to the extent that the test progressed.

I suggested to Mr. Bowditch that Dr. Gardner could conscientiously state, and without fear of contradiction, that the test conducted over a period of five or six years, or longer, gave no evidence of permanent injury, or words to that effect. Mr. Bowditch was reluctant to speak for Dr. Gardner but he seemed to agree that such a statement from Dr. Gardner would not be out of order.

It is my understanding, from what Mr. Bowditch stated, that you were quite perturbed, or should I say displeased, because Dr. Gardner would not go on record to that end, and I feel you were justified. It seems to me useless to go to the expense of conducting such extended and costly test experiments if when we get through no one is going to be able to account for the results achieved, and I think we should urge Dr. Gardner, in making his final report, to state definitely what his experiments were and what results were achieved. It is my understanding that no one has gone so far as we did, through Dr. Gardner's Laboratory, to prove the effects of asbestos dust, and

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since many doctors without the experience to prove their statements definitely have made the claim that it is the invisible dust that causes asbestosis that Dr. Gardner's report would do much to offset the damaging effects these unsupported statements have made.

It would do much good at the present time if Industry could publicize these experiences. In our case, at North Brookfield, it would help to overcome the advantage our neighboring manufacturers have in procuring certain classes of labor. While our record at North Brookfield is definitely good, and while all of our old help is unafraid, new help we would like to obtain is sometimes influenced by fear of dust promoted by our neighboring manufacturers.

I have not seen Dr. Gardner's preliminary report since you first sent it to us some time ago, but I recall an objectional statement wherein Dr. Gardner referred to the possibility of cancer. It was my impression that that statement was rather far-fetched and had no place in Dr. Gardner's final report. I imagine you would find the same objection that I make, and since our group's contact with Dr. Gardner has been through you I have said nothing to Dr. Gardner about it knowing you will take proper action.

I am sending you a copy of Dr. Gardner's letter of April 15th. While it is not encouraging it offers some hope. My feeling is that if Dr. Gardner is the only one who can write up his report we would be in pretty bad shape if anything should happen to Dr. Gardner.

Nothing in this letter is intended to suggest that you should take any action in our behalf that you do not approve of for your own company's interest, but rather to give you all of the information that I have through my visit with Mr. Bowditch for whatever it may be worth to you.

With kind personal regards.

Very truly yours,

ASBESTOS TEXTILE COMPANY, INC.

T. L. Gatke

President

TLG:FP
Encl.

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