34 West Parker Avenue,
Maplewood, N.J.

September 13,1936.

Dear Mr. Paxton:-

Asbestos Bags for Dust Collection [redacted]

Your report of Sept.11 on Cotton Cloth is not only interesting but enlightening. I am on the track of a substantial sample of Cotton Cloth and will send it along as soon as available.

There is a two-ply "story behind the news" here which offers fine possibilities. In the first place the recent stepping-up of zinc oxide specifications, particularly by the paint trade, has awakened those commercial zinc oxide manufacturers not equipped for high temperature baghouse operation. Color and sulphur control depend considerably on temperature at the point of pigment collection and there is only one answer,- asbestos bags. Some producers like Saint Joseph Lead, American Zinc Oxide (at Hillsboro,Ohio),Grasselli Chemical and Sherwin Williams, all Cotton Bag users, have finally seen the light and are planning accordingly. Anaconda Zinc Oxide at both East Chicago and Akron are beginning to see the light and while apparently not as close to the asbestos bag ideal, will come around in time. (Do not confuse them with Anaconda's lead bag house at East Chicago).

New Jersey Zinc and American Zinc Oxide (at Columbus,O.), because of their asbestos bag installations are "set". This is what bothers their competitors.

Anaconda at Perth Amboy is not making commercial zinc oxide. Theirs is a by-product which goes back into process, chiefly for the manufacture of lithopone. Their problem is one not pigment quality.

By high temperature baghouse operations, we are thinking of a range from 300 deg.F. to possibly 700 deg.F. in which case we must be able to definitely rule cotton "out" and our asbestos "in".

The second part of this story is Coffeyville. Over the 'phone, Thomas told me he was operating their cotton bags at 450 deg.F. He evidently heard me gasp for he said "when you see our plant, you will understand how we can do it and, believe it or not, I think I can run your bags up pretty close to 700 deg.F.". That 450 deg.F. for cotton did sound revolutionary and might possibly be explained by their not permitting hot collected dust to remain any length of time in contact with the fabric and by getting the hot gases out of the baghouse as quickly as possible.

Following this reasoning, I am now wondering whether we have not been too modest in our claims for asbestos. If, for example, we find that at,say,350 deg.F.cotton bags apparently become worthless and yet are being used at 450 deg.F. by smart baghouse work, why is it not possible to use our asbestos bags up to 700 deg.F., as Thomas suggests?

This thought together with the revelations of what our 125J cloth is withstanding on the United Color and Pigment job and the recent developments in the pigment and other non-ferrous metal smelter industries, all contribute to a much better outlook for our asbestos bags.

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Mr. Paxton.

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The larger hand-shaken bags which are now finally becoming active are really "our meat", so to speak, because they represent real volume and offer less problems. The Blaw-Knox collectors when they solve their beater problem on smelter dust, are the most attractive automatic collectors developed to date for asbestos cloth. In addition, Blaw-Knox has the money to push their collectors.

The tube type collector e g Northern Blower, may require still further refinements or rather simplification of their shaking mechanism. Weger (Northern Blower) thinks he has the answer. Can you find a place at Bridgeport for him to try it out?

Speaking of Blaw-Knox, this United job recently gave them a fine case of the jitters, for awhile. It also gave them a real education in collecting smelter dust, which they really knew little about, Dorfan to the contrary not withstanding. Chandler now feels that they have licked this beater problem which is certainly a relief, as he was beginning to worry whether their collectors would perform satisfactorily at Donora.

This letter has gotten longer than I anticipated, but I wanted you to get the background of what I consider a very interesting and promising situation.

F.C. Ryan.
F.C.R.

P.S. - The 24 pieces of untreated brake lining tape for Blaw-Knox were received yesterday.

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