ASBESTOS

Vol. 4 MARCH, 1923 No. 9



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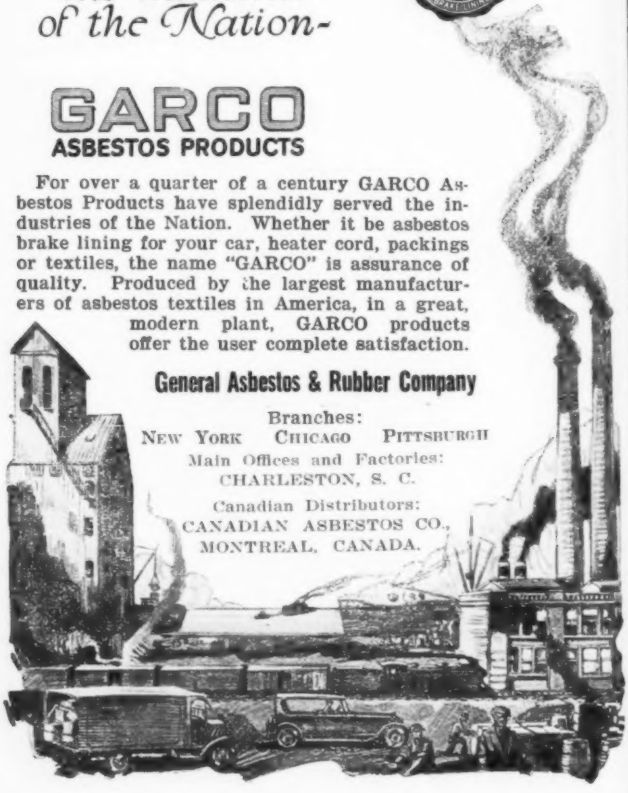
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... ASBESTOS ...

A MONTHLY MARKET JOURNAL

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE
ASBESTOS AND MAGNESIA INDUSTRIES

A. S. ROSSITER - - - - EDITOR

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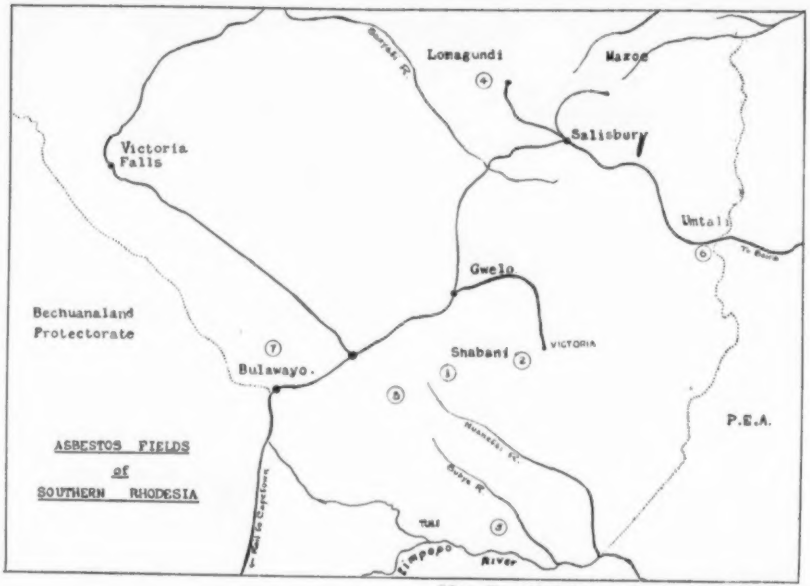
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EDITORIALS

Map Supplied by A. G. Pryce-Williams.

An Effort in Economy.

Announcement from Washington that receipts and expenditures of the U. S. Government will balance at the end of the year (June 30) for the first time in seven years, is cause for real rejoicing.

It is very easy to spend other people's money, and before the Budget Bureau was established there was little to curb expenditure and nothing to check up on it. Duplication of effort and of expenditure were common.

The Budget Bureau seems to have gotten a firm grip on the reins as is evidenced by the slowing down of expenditure and the lessening in amount of deficits.

Of course some believe that the results and figures given out by the Administration are only "a work of art by department bookkeepers." but in any case it is certain that there is some supervision over the Government's finances, and such supervision is responsible for the elimination of a great many dollars from the Government's expense account.

Fire Hazards of Asbestos.

Being famed far and wide for its fireproof qualities, it is rather startling to run across an article appearing in the official publication of the National Fire Protection Association calling attention to the "Fire Hazards of *Asbestos* Fabric Manufacture."

The hazards, naturally, apply to materials of an inflammable nature used in connection with the Asbestos in manufacturing processes.

One will naturally think of asphalt compositions, inflammable liquids used in the coating of fabric for the making of gaskets and packings, treating of brake linings, etc. Oil, turpentine, gasoline, benzine and other such liquids are dangerous unless used with extreme care, and even with care will often give off vapors which ignite on the smallest pretext and cause explosions or fires, or both.

The article in question also calls attention to the inflammability of the cotton mixed with Asbestos in order to properly spin, fires having been caused by particles of rock

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from the Asbestos striking sparks in the mixing machines and igniting the cotton where the percentage of asbestos was not large enough to lessen the hazard.

All of which means that fire in an Asbestos Mill is well within the range of possibility, and is prevented only by constant care and watching, notwithstanding the efforts of jokesmiths when such fires do occur.



Why No Grading of Crudes.

Our mailbag often brings to us queries and suggestions on points which have not been previously brought to our attention. and many times opens up discussions of interest to ourselves and our readers.

Such was a query put to us a few weeks ago by a correspondent who was studying the Asbestos Industry and found that while African Crudes were graded into several grades according to length, and sold at prices varying with those lengths, all Canadian Fibres above ½ inch were thrown together as No. 1 Crude and sold at one price.

Our correspondent contended that this was not logical —that the longer material was naturally worth more than the shorter and should therefore bring a higher price.

In thinking it over, what is the real reason for throwing all Canadian Crudes over a certain length into one lot and selling it as is?

One answer would be that the longest Crudes, while probably more valuable than the shorter ones, would not be in sufficient demand to secure the higher price, or warrant the trouble of grading; that the spinner would rather have an assortment of crudes at an average price because he would neither care to pay the higher price for the longer ones nor would he care to use all shorter material; that the combining of the long crudes with the shorter ones gives a more economical mix and serves the purpose just as well (except in rare cases where a specially fine material is required), this fact being demonstrated by the success with which the longer mill fibres have been used, in conjunction with crudes, for spinning purposes.

We would like our readers to discuss this problem with us fully, writing us your ideas as to why Canadian Crudes are not divided into more classes.

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MARKET CONDITIONS

The most gratifying and satisfactory occurrence in a long while, is the arrangement for the payment of the British war debt. The arrangement has in a most convincing manner confirmed the American long-held impression of British integrity, and American business feels that they have now something solid to build on, rather than the hopes which have been harbored for many months past.

Business conditions in general in the United States are improving rapidly. The building boom continues unabated; automobile manufacturers had so many orders booked in December that they did not stop production even for the customary week of inventory taking at the first of the year; and almost every other general industrial line follows the same trend.

But—in every comment on the general business situation which we have seen during the past month, there is plainly expressed a fear that business is *too* good for the good of the country; that the boom which is in the midst of us is leading, perhaps rapidly, perhaps slowly, to a secondary period of inflation, which means of course that deflation will follow closely on its heels.

Mr. W. A. Godfrey, manager and secretary of the Cape Asbestos Company, Limited, of London, has recently visited the Continent and reports that the asbestos industry in Italy is in better condition than in England. While the large ship-building yards at Genoa, Taranto and Trieste are not so active as they were a year or so ago, there seems to be, since the rise of Mussolini to power, a more settled industrial activity than was previously the case. Labor troubles are almost unknown. The chemical trades are working fully and the motor industry is in good condition. The Government's requirements of asbestos goods for the railways have to be met and owing to the tariff the Italian asbestos manufacturers are kept moderately occupied in supplying plaited yarn, packings, etc.

In France, Mr. Godfrey tells us, the asbestos manufacturers are fully protected by the existing tariff, and it is almost hopeless for British or other manufacturers to obtain

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an interest in that market. Raw material is the only line in which business can be done by importers.

Comments from Gebruder, Ritter & Company in Hamburg, on conditions in Central Europe will no doubt interest our readers. They say:

"During the last quarter of 1922 business was much quieter altho prices for shorter grades were stiffening all round and credits were partially withdrawn. The beginning of 1923 saw a further advance in prices for shorter grades. Business so far has been extremely slow and, we dare say, has been of the smallest dimensions for many months past. The political outlook for Central Europe is very dark and the industrial position in Central Europe has received an almost killing blow on account of the French occupation of the Ruhr coal fields, and it is not to be foreseen what will happen next.

"The whole Central European industry must come to a practical standstill if the occupation is to last for any length of time, and we have already received word that some of the more important asbestos factories are working short time and in some cases have been forced to dismiss several hundred laborers. In addition to this the financially strong powers have on account of the unsettled international state of affairs withdrawn credits in Central Europe and many oversea houses have resumed terms of payment that were customary immediately after the armistice in 1919, i. e., they demand cash before shipment of goods or at least immediate cash on arrival of goods at Hamburg."

So much for general conditions, in various countries.

Specifically, there has been little change in the raw material market, prices of the lower grades, particularly paper stock, stiffening somewhat. Miners are realizing, however, that a situation like that which has existed in the asbestos mining industry for the past several months, cannot be continued, and that something must be done. What will the something be?

Distributors of general asbestos lines tell us that insulation still takes first place in sales, with asbestos corrugated roofing and asbestos shingles second—naturally traceable to the building boom.

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Textile lines (always excepting brake lining) are reported quiet; a hand to mouth business in yarn, some few commitments on asbestos listings for future delivery, and a few calls for plain braided packings.

Asbestos gaskets have picked up considerably, as well as cut asbestos millboard and compressed asbestos sheet and fibre gaskets.

Since the asbestos business does not improve as quickly as other lines, and likewise slumps are slower to be felt, the summary, so far as manufactured asbestos products are concerned, seems to indicate, in the words of one of our correspondents, that "If no labor troubles stop the progress, this should be a big year."

Production Statistics

Rhodesia.

Reports from the Rhodesia Chamber of Mines give the following figures for production of Asbestos in Rhodesia during November 1922:

	Tons	Value
Bulawayo District—		
Birthday (Willoughby's)	15	£300
Nil Desperandum (Afr. Asb. Mng.)	266	5320
Pangani (J. S. Hancock)	15	243
Shabanie (Rhod. & Gen. Asb. Corp.)	466	11,657
Lomagundi District—		
Ethel (Union & Rhod. Tr.)	30	750
Victoria District—		
Balmain (Afr. Asb. Min. Co. Ltd.)	84	1,689
Gath's (Rho. & Gen. Asb. Corp.)	366	9,150
King (Rho. King Asb. Co. Ltd.)	557	11,129
	1,799	£40,238

Output during November 1921 totalled 589 tons.

CORRECTION

A statement made in the February number needs correction. Altho the general idea prevails in the trade that Arizona asbestos fibre is inferior to the Canadian product, such is really not the case.

It is admitted that some Arizona fibres that have been put on the market, are inferior to Canadian, this being due to improper preparation, weathering of the material, and so on.

It is well known, however, that in several instances users of certain Arizona Crude have been so well pleased with it that they are paying higher prices for it than for Crudes rrom the Thetford District.

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Development and Growth of the Rhodesian Asbestos Industry

By A. G. Pryce-Williams, B. Sc.

Asbestos, both chrysotile and amphibole have been known to occur in Rhodesia for the past twenty years, but it was not until 1907 and 1908 that its commercial value began to be appreciated.

Probably the first production was made by the old Gaths claim, which began producing in 1908 and a trial shipment of 55 tons to England at that time, realized £18. 10s a ton (about $90). The following year 273 tons were produced, realizing approximately £26 per ton.

In 1911 the output had reached 460 tons and in that year King Mine, Mashaba, commenced production.

In 1914 the King Mine was floated for £140,000 and a big impetus given to the industry by fresh discoveries and vastly increased demand created for asbestos by the outbreak of the war.

In 1915 the Mashaba output had risen to 2010 tons, valued at £32,000, and at about this time the Shabanie fields sprung into prominence and numbers of new claims were pegged, the first to produce being Oudeville and Moore on the Birthday, followed by E. H. Machell on the Nil Desperandum, then the Shabanie Mine, acquired by the Rhodesian and General Asbestos Corporation, Ltd., the Ad Valorem owned by Mr. Fromberg and the Sphinx owned by Bob Carruthers.

By 1917 the Rhodesian output reached a total of 9562 tons.

During the war period the output was somewhat restricted owing to the lack of adequate shipping facilities. but prospecting and exploration work proceeded actively.

In 1920 the output was 18,823 short tons, and in 1921 19,259 tons, while the output for 1922, up to and including the month of November totalled 12,390 tons.

Since both the Shabanie and Mashaba Asbestos fields are remote from the railway transport costs are no inconsiderable item, while in the rainy season owing to the bad state of the roads, it is often impossible to make any shipments.

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Sheet Packing - Ring Packing
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West Coast Asbestos Co.

DOWNEY - CALIFORNIA

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Altho Rhodesia is free from the severe climatic conditions incident to mining in Canada and Russia, mine dewatering presents difficulty in the rainy season. At the Shabanie and Nil Desperandum Mines long drainage tunnels have been driven some thousands of feet these draining the mine water into the river.

The rock after blasting is sorted by "cobbing boys", this being done by striking with a light hammer on iron sheets or stones. The native laborers are usually paid according to the amount of cleanly cobbed fibre won by them, tools and explosives being supplied. Mining costs are consequently very low.

The final product is graded into Nos. 1, 2 and 3, according to length, the average being ¾", ½" and ¼" respectively.

A typical analysis of Mashaba fibre is appended:

Silica	38.58%
Iron	2.53%
Alumina	3.21%
Lime	2.90%
Magnesia	38.87%
Water	14.10%

Iron often occurs as small seams of magnetite traversing the fibre seams, but this is usually eliminated without special treatment in the ordinary milling process.

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Packings, Steam and High Pressure
Wick and Rope

Asbestos Fibre Spinning Company

North Wales, Penna.

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The Asbestos Fields of Africa

Some comments by an American who has recently visited the localities described.

"ASBESTOS" takes no responsibility for any of the statements made.

Deposits of cross fibred white chrysotile in Africa that are at present being worked commercially are found in three districts, viz: the Shebanie, Mashaba and the Barberton or Kaapsche Hoop.

Location.

We find the Shebanie located about 125 miles east of Bulawayo, without railroad connection, Bulawayo being about 1360 miles by rail north of Cape Town, and connected with Shebanie by a fairly rough road that at times, in the wet season, is impassable. Shebanie hauls its fibre sixty miles by ox wagon to Selukwe, where it is shipped by rail about 500 miles to Beira, in Portuguese East Africa, and from there it goes by boat to Europe and America.

The Mashaba district is about 50 miles northeast of the Shebanie District, and about 25 miles from rail head at Fort Victoria. The fibre is hauled to Fort Victoria by oxen, and shipped by the same rail route as Shebanie.

The Kaapsche Hoop district is quite close to Barberton, which is in the Transvaal, on the main line between Johannesburg and Lorence Marques, only about 150 miles from this seaport. This last field, however, has at present only one good mine, the Amianthus. Limited.

In the immediate neighborhood of the Shebanie Field, and also about fifteen miles away at Belingwe, are found workable deposits of "slip" fibre. This fibre is very variable as to tensile strength, and while the deposits carry some splendid fibre, yet it is so mixed with weak fibre that its value from a manufacturing standpoint is quite questionable, and it has been practically abandoned by all the larger users.

In addition to the proven chrysotile deposits, some mention should be made of the blue crocidolite deposits in the Cape Province which extend from Prieska to Kuruman, roughly about 300 miles, and of the brown amosite fibres about 60 miles north of Lydenburg in the Transvaal.

In the Shebanie Field, the serpentine outcrop that car-

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ries the Shebanie deposits is about 125 miles almost due east of Bulawayo in South Rhodesia. The nearby country is generally hilly, the elevation being about 3000 feet, altho some of the kopje reach 5000 feet. The total area of exposed serpentine is 6 miles long and about a mile at the widest point, the general direction of the strike being north by 30° west, with a dip south by 60° west.

Being well in the torrid zone this field is always hot,



Photo by Courtesy of Author.

A Good Showing of Crude at the Shebanie Mine, About 25% Fibre.

their winter being about comparable to a hot summer in the southern part of the United States. The town of Shebanie itself is a dusty little place, and no one stays there if they can get accommodations at the mines.

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The main fibre bearing body is about two and a half miles long by four hundred feet wide, and carries only three mines, with the Nil Desperandum (Turner Brothers) on the southeast end, the Shebanie Mine (Rhodesian & General) on the northwest, and the Birthday (Willoughbys Consolidated) in the center. Generally, toward the northeast, these mines come into contact with quartz, the serpentine going out entirely.

Workings of the Shebanie Mine.

The Shebanie Mine was the first big operation begun in this field, and, in going over this mine, one starts in right at the ground level. Here they have dropped winzes (shafts) every fifty feet, and going to a depth of sixty feet, being about 4 feet in diameter. The entire property at the level is thus proven to a depth of sixty feet, and all showings are of uniform richness. These shafts are not only to prove the property (core drills being out of the question as they are more expensive than native labor) but are valuable in the actual development work because when the adits or entries are driven at the sixty foot level, these winzes are then used as "glory holes" or box holes.

These winzes and other development work have proven the property for a continuous distance of over 4000 feet, with a maximum width of over 400 feet, and an everage width of about 275 feet, and of a depth of 60 feet below the surface level.

At the time of writing principal attention is being confined to three rich blocks of claims known as the 170, 176 and 177 blocks, and has in the hill on block 170 over 600,000 tons of ore developed and proved, while below the foot of the hill and above the main drainage adit it has three million tons proved. From the top to the foot is 160 feet vertically, and No. 1 level is sixty feet below this. It has been unable to sink below No. 1 level as yet, on account of the volume of water, so it is impossible to make any definite statement as to the probable depth to which the deposit continues. Rich ore, both in quantity and quality, has been proved on the No. 1 level, and the developments all around are stated to be of a thoroly satisfactory nature.

From the level ground the mine works up in a series of wide terraces about ten feet high, the mine tracks run

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along side of these terraces and the barren rock is pitched down by hand into one ton trucks. These trucks are then pushed to the dump by the native boys. This series of benches or terraces make a huge open quarry that has not yet cut away the kopje to the ground level. Below the quarry was the first level of underground workings. The second level awaits the completion of a 7000 foot drainage canal to the river. The pit or quarry is about 1000 feet long by about 350 feet wide, and is generally rich thruout, the only lean territory being that next to the Birthday mine. In the direction of the main property it seems unendingly rich, both at the top of the kopje or at depth, and the writer believes is one of the richest mines in fibre in the



Photo by Courtesy of Author.

At Ground Level in Shebanie Pit

world. About 40% of its output is No. 1 and No. 2 Crude of excellent quality, the rest being No. 3 or shingle stock. Nothing shorter than No. 3 is recovered in Africa at the present time, owing to the high cost of transportation. The dumps show rich in short fibre and probably some day they will be reworked. At this time all work is well laid out, and development seems to be even more regular and workmanlike than in Canada.

The rock in general is a gray green serpentine, fairly soft and with a good cleavage from the fibre. All drilling and other work in the mine is done by hand as native labor (which costs about $5.00 a month) is much cheaper than power where a scanty wood supply is the only fuel.

After blasting, all fibre is handcobbed in the pits, the

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barren rock being thrown into the trucks and carried to the dump. Each cobbing boy is required to bring in at least eighty pounds of handcobbed a day, that being his task. The boys take the sacks of handcobbed to the fibre sheds where they are paid one shilling per 100 pounds. At the time the writer was at the mine the shed contained 6500 tons of hand cobbed fibre, which would yield about 55% asbestos, and with the present system of grading this yield would give about 17% No. 1, 23% No. 2 and 60% No. 3. The mine is worked by native labor entirely with not more than two or three white men, excepting those in the mill, on the job.

Native Labor.

These natives are hired for a period of months at so much per head. As a rule they are well taken care of, housed and fed by the company. The bachelors live in circular huts about fifteen feet in diameter, five to a hut. The married couples live in smaller individual huts. The Government sees that they are fed so much fresh meat and so much vegetables a week, but the main article of diet is mealie meal (corn meal) and Kaffir beer. Generally, they seem in better condition than the natives who live in their own Kraals.

The Mill and Power Plant.

The power plant at the Shebanie mine is small compared to the size of the operation, but with native labor cheap and plentiful, the first thing to forget is dependence on steam and electricity. The plant consists of two 100 H. P. boilers, burning wood and carrying about 125 pounds of steam, low pressure engines, and General Electric motors.

The power house is used mostly for lighting and running the mill. This last is a sort of holy of holies, and no visitor can enter.

In the South African field the general milling process begins with the treatment of hand cobbed fibre that comes from the pits, altho this process is undergoing a change Shebanie is planning to build another mill for the treatment of rock, but at present it treats no rock, beginning its milling with the treatment of hand cobbed. The hand cobbed includes small lumps of rock rich in short fibre, but consists mostly of long fibre with adhering rock. In general hand cobbed will yield from 55% to 25% of fibre, depending on

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the richness of the deposit. The yield at Shebanie is about 55%, which is the highest in the field.

Milling Process.

On arrival at the mill, the hand cobbed is dumped in a bin from the bottom of which a bucket conveyor feeds it into a revolving screen, with openings of about one inch. The larger material riding over the screen falls into a small jaw crusher. Coming from the crusher, it unites with the material that came thru the screen, from here it goes by means of a conveyor to another storage bin, and from this bin is first passed over a shaking screen. From this shaking screen suction picks up the loose fibre, and some of the sand and rock falls thru. What rides over goes to a small bowl shaped pan crusher about four feet in diameter, with round bottoms, the rolls having circular faces also. The fibre is kept in for only two or three revolutions, the object being simply to break loose the adhering rock, and it is now re-screened.

This process of slight crushing and screening is repeated until the fibre and rock are separated, the object being to reduce the fibre to a "prilly" state of the general appearance and diameter of a small match, but not to fluff it up, and at the same time separate it completely from rock and grade it into No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3.

The results are very uniform and clean, quite different from the shipments in the period of peak prices. In fact now that the South African companies fully realize the value of preparation they are turning out a very clean and evenly prepared fibre.

The Nil Desperandum Mine.

The Nil mine is on the far end of the strike from the Shebanie mine and is not as rich as the Shebanie, but it is a tremendous affair and has the air of success, and will be a big producer for a long time. The Nil Mine does not have as long fibre as the Shebanie, the rock is harder and there is more overburden to move.

The milling process at the Nil mine is, in part, more like the Canadian, as they treat about 20% of their richer rock and recover a mill fibre. At the same time they work up the hand cobbed also. The rock and hand cobbed are both reduced to finer sizes by jaw crushers, then after

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ASBESTOS TEXTILE CO.

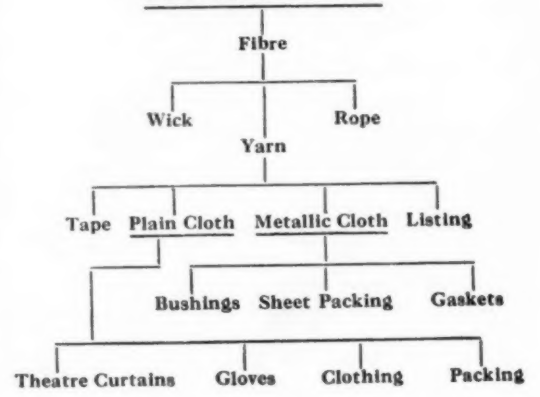
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screening and collection of loose fibre by suction, crushing rolls instead of pans are used for further reduction. This difference in method, namely crushing rolls compared to pan crushers, is a great bone of contention in the district.

The Birthday Mine.

Lying between the Nil mine and the Shebanie mine, and tying on to both is the Birthday block of claims. These claims extend almost 8000 feet along the contact zone, and are being worked in three pits, two small ones and one



Photo Copyright International Newsreel.

Screening Asbestos to Remove Grit at Mashaba. Notice Native Hut in Background.

large one, the latter being about 1200 feet long by 300 feet wide; eventually all three pits will be worked into one.

At the Birthday they are down to the third level, 150 feet below the surface, which is the deepest workings in the field, and for this reason it is interesting to know that the deposits continue uniform. If they do continue to greater depth, and there seems to be no reason why they should not,

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New Uses for Asbestos

From time to time suggestions are made that Asbestos be used for one or another purpose, but, perhaps from lack of publicity, nothing happens.

The Fellowship at the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, established by this Company, is working zealously to discover and develop new and present uses of Asbestos, and the many products made therefrom.

With the idea of giving the widest possible publicity to suggestions received we plan to use this page for reporting to you the progress being made.

The latest idea is that Asbestos Textile Manufacturers might profitably make a soft Asbestos blanket to be offered to the chemical industries, dyers, cleaners, etc., the blanket to be used for smothering fires of small size or for quickly wrapping about persons whose clothing takes fire. For this purpose woolen blankets are now used to some extent but it is believed that if a soft Asbestos blanket could be made at a satisfactory price, it would be welcomed by many industries, particularly since the psychological effect on workers would be valuable.

Such an Asbestos blanket would be welcomed in electrical plants where fires could be kept under control until the power could be shut off and the fire extinguished.

Perhaps such blankets can be substituted for the pails of sand required to be kept in certain places for use in case of fire.

It is hoped that our readers will give some thought to the ideas suggested from month to month, and will give us the benefit of their opinion to the end that we all may forward the commercial application of the products of this Industry.

Will *you* help us?

Consolidated Asbestos Limited

Canada Cement Building

Montreal, - Canada

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European Office
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it will prolong the life of the field tremendously, much more than present figures indicate.

The Birthday mine is owned by Willoughbys Consolidated, while situated in the middle of the Shebanie field it is generally considered not as good a mine as either the Shebanie or the Nil, producing only No. 2 and No. 3, altho the quality of the fibre is excellent, and the preparation good and clean.

Other Mines.

Traveling by road fifty miles northeast of Shebanie we strike the Mashaba field. It can be more easily reached from Fort Victoria by travelling 25 miles over a good road.

The King Mine in this district was bought not so long ago by the Edmund Davis group and is possibly their smallest mine as to output and life. The mine is in appearance and workings along the same line as those in the Shebanie field, being a large quarry eating into the side of the kopje with considerable underground workings also.

Here the serpentine is apple green in color, rather soft, and giving not more than 1% recovery of fibre, the greater part, about 85%, being shingle stock. While No. 1 and 2 produced at this mine is somewhat shorter than is usually the case, the quality is excellent, being very strong.

The Gath Mine is also owned by the Davis Group, and here the pit is tremendous, about 3500 feet long by 600 feet across, rather cut up in appearance. At present they are working on both the first and second level and the deposits seem to be longer at depth. About 50,000 tons of rock is moved monthly, the fibre content being low, possibly less than 1%.

There are also in this field numberless small prospectors who live a sort of hand to mouth existence, most of them having been broken by selling fibre on credit.

The only other mine in the district that may be considered of possible potential value is the Boss mine of Bells United Asbestos Company, Limited, which lies within three miles of the King pit. Little work is being done in this mine at present.



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Contractors and Distributors Page

A rather interesting point in connection with open vs. closed shop, has come to our attention, and is passed on for the benefit of our readers.

Briefly the point is that it has, in certain cases, been held lawful by the courts for a group of employers who control most of a particular industry in a community where that industry is an important one, to agree among themselves, subject to penal bonds, that they will maintain open shop, and such bonds have even been enforced by the courts.

But—it is unlawful for groups of employers and employes who control practically all of a particular industry in a community where that industry is an important one, to agree that they will not employ anyone but a member of a particular union.

The latter action is held unlawful because such agreements would be monopolistic and restrict public liberty as they tend to deprive the individual of his freedom to pursue his trade.

In other words, the open shop, that is, the true open shop, preserves to the individual his free right of choice to determine whether or not he desires to be a union member, and therefore combinations to maintain the open shop are combinations in support of individual liberty.

On the other hand, combinations to maintain the closed shop are combinations against individual liberty because the closed shop, whether union or anti-union, deprives the individual of his right of choice to determine whether or not he desires to be a union member.

But, again, the fact that the open shop is commendable and lawful does not justify the employment of illegal means in order to make others adopt it. To threaten an employer with loss of life or other hardship unless he adopts the open shop is illegal, and likewise if combinations to enforce the open shop involve a restraint of interstate trade, that is illegal.

The above information is gathered from an article in the February number of "Law and Labor" published by The League for Industrial Rights.

Insulation contractors in Philadelphia have recently signed an agreement with the Union and are again working under closed shop.

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Henry Melville Whitney

Editor's Note: For most of the information contained in this article we are indebted to those who personally knew Mr. Whitney at the time of his connection with the Asbestos Industry.

Hardly known to the younger generation, to those older heads in the Asbestos Industry, the name of Henry Melville Whitney connotes promise, power and progress.

The announcement of Mr. Whitney's death, which occurred on January 26, 1923, at Boston, led us to make some inquiries as to his life and activities in the Asbestos field, and we found a man whose broad vision, energy and persistence have done many things for the Asbestos Industry.

Henry Melville Whitney was born on October 22nd, 1839, in Conway, Mass., and for many years was strenuously interested in a number of New England enterprises, among them the Rhode Island Coal Company, Boston & Gloucester Steamboat Company, West End Land Company, Real Estate Exchange and Auction Board, on all of which he left his stamp of progress. Whitney was the kind of man who when once interested in a project never gave up, but backed it with all his money, his energy and every other facility at his command. If it could ever be said of any man that he used his stumbling blocks as stepping stones, it could be said of Whitney.

Mr. Whitney was first interested in the Asbestos Industry by Edward T. Slade, who was connected with Mr. Whitney in some of his enterprises, and who, by the way, is the same Edward T. Slade now heading the Asbestos Spinning and Weaving Corporation in New York. Mr. Slade, together with a friend, W. C. Kerr, was interested in the development of a small asbestos prospect in Black Lake, P. Q., but since it required more capital than either of them had to devote to it, they succeeded in interesting Mr. Whitney in the project. This was in 1900. The result was the formation of the American Asbestos Company of Black Lake, which purchased the lots owned at that time by Arthur H. Murphy. About a year later they purchased adjoining property from King Brothers, and in 1907 bought the mines of the United Asbestos Company and the Glasgow & Mon-

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treal Asbestos Company, both located at Black Lake. In the latter company, by the way, Mr. Whitney was associated with Berthold Marcuse, father of B. Marcuse who is now President of the Asbestos Fibre Company, Incorporated.

About the same time (1907) Mr. Whitney purchased on his own account the King Mine at Thetford.

In 1908 the British-Canadian Asbestos Corporation was formed, covering the Black Lake holdings of the above mentioned men, and with this as a nucleus the Amalgamated Asbestos Corporation was later brought into being. This latter Corporation has, as our readers know, been reorganized into the present Asbestos Corporation of Canada Limited. Mr. Whitney was president and was actively associated with these various Corporations up to the time of the reorganization of the Amalgamated Asbestos Corporation, when he dropped out to care for his many other interests nearer home.

As illustrative of Mr. Whitney's broad vision, persistence and courage, we cite two instances.

While he was connected with the Asbestos Industry he was much interested in the development of new uses for the material, and so pioneered the development and organization of the Asbestos Wood Company of Nashua, N. H., where he had associated with him Prof. Charles Norton of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and successfully developed a product composed of short asbestos fibre, magnesia and a form of wax as an impregnating compound which was forced into the material under an alternate vacuum and pressure process. This development was brought about by Mr. Whitney's determination to find a use for the very short fibre which was going out on the dump with the tailings, and ended in the standardization of Grade "C".

Again, he developed a special grade of asbestos for the manufacture of asbestos shingles then being made by Ludwig Hatschek of Austria. The grade is known today as "shingle stock" and is commonly produced and used, but at that time it was necessary to invest about $50,000 in new equipment and changes in the Mill of the American Asbestos Company, resulting, however, in a contract with Hatschek for the entire output of this grade.

But tho Mr. Whitney went into such things on a large

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scale, he never entered them until he was satisfied from a personal investigation that they were commercially possible and profitable.

Such was the story of Henry Melville Whitney and his connection with the Asbestos Industry. The Industry could well use another man like him.

Imports and Exports of Asbestos

Exports of Unmanufactured Asbestos during December 1922, amounted to 53 tons, valued at $8,083.

During the twelve months ending December 31st, 1922, 336 tons of unmanufactured asbestos were exported, being valued at $49,939.

Exports of Manufactured Asbestos Products for December 1922, were as follows:

Paper, Millboard and Rollboard	234,524 lbs.	$11,552.00
Pipe Covering and Cement	255,405 lbs.	14,720.00
Textiles, Yarn and Packing	66,576 lbs.	44,916.00
Magnesia Pipe & Boiler Covering	252,486 lbs.	19,472.00
Asbestos Roofing	311,527 sq. ft.	9,871.00
Other Manufactures of Asbestos	532,761 lbs.	75,005.00

Totals of exports of Manufactured Asbestos Products for the year 1922 were:

Paper, Millboard and Rollboard	2,298,621 lbs.	$122,746.00
Pipe Covering and Cement	3,417,707 lbs.	224,352.00
Textiles, Yarn and Packing	669,233 lbs.	492,760.00
Magnesia Pipe & Boiler Covering	3,831,681 lbs.	223,686.00
Asbestos Roofing	5,243,988 sq. ft.	182,895.00
Other Manufactures of Asbestos	3,165,795 lbs.	657,889.00

Canadian exports of Raw Asbestos, during December are given below, as well as the figures covering the entire year of 1922.

	December		Year of 1922	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
United Kingdom	130	$ 14,000.00	2,261	$ 277,523.00
United States	9,879	475,240.00	83,535	4,086,327.00
Australia	..	.....	25	6,000.00
Belgium	945	57,525.00	4,801	338,833.00
France	165	13,200.00	2,760	256,272.00
Germany	245	18,725.00	6,483	743,089.00
Italy	..	.....	548	43,412.00
Japan	180	9,450.00	2,525	143,633,00
Netherlands	22	4,400.00	989	142,499.00

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Waterproof Insulating Paper
Roof Paints
Asbestos Roof Cements
Asphalt Pitch

THE PHILIP CAREY COMPANY
Lockland, Cincinnati, Ohio

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Spain	..	.....	50	4,500.00
Other Countries	..	.....	170	9,505.00
	11,566	$592,540.00	104,147	$6,051,593.00

These figures do not include Sand and Waste. During 1922, 206 tons of Sand and Waste, valued at $4,558 was shipped to the United Kingdom, 57,203 tons valued at $560,-095 to the United States, and 600 tons, valued at $7,250 to other countries, a total of 58,009 tons valued at $571,903.

We have also received some interesting figures covering imports of Raw Asbestos into Hamburg; these having been sent us by Gebruder Ritter & Company of Hamburg:

	For Last Three Months of 1922	For Year of 1922
	Bags	Bags
From Canada	27,100	120,526
United States	770	7,310
England	10,798	40,559
Africa	10,892	40,794
Holland	1	2,362
Australia & China	...	.....
Russia	16,318	37,610
Various Ports	7	591
	65,886	249,752

We note from our records that the 37,160 bags reported as coming from Russia, were all received in Hamburg during September, October and November, none coming from Russia during December or during the first eight months of the year.

Imports of Asbestos by Hamburg for the last four years show the following interesting comparisons; the figures being given in tons:

1919.....1,188 tons	1921..... 6,861 tons
1920.....5,143 tons	1922.....13,955 tons

while imports during 1913 into Hamburg totalled 16,088 tons.

If it can be done somebody will do it; why not you?—*Forbes.*

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1922 Automobile Production

Production figures published by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, for the year 1922, show the immense impetus given to the automobile business during the year, and makes it very easy to account for the fact that Asbestos Brake Lining demand has been continuously good, when other textile lines were showing little activity.

From 81,693 passenger cars produced during January 1922, to a production of 263,027 in June, and dropping below the 200,000 mark but once during the latter six months of the year (in September) the total for the year being 2,334,790, is the record, and makes even the most passive reader show interest.



Showing Production of Passenger Cars by Months

These figures are particularly significant when compared with those for 1921. The highest figure covering production of passenger cars during 1921 was 167,705 in August.

Production of trucks during 1922 totalled 242,975. the highest month being June—25,984 trucks. In all 2,577,765 cars and trucks were produced in 1922.

At January 1st, motor manufacturers had so many orders booked ahead that they decided not to close down for

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Asbestos Corporation
of Canada, Limited

The Largest Producers of Raw Asbestos in the World

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PAPER STOCKS

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Head Office

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Phillips Square - Montreal

General Office

THETFORD MINES
Quebec, Canada

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the annual inventory period, but to continue production without break.

And the preliminary figures for production in January show a total of 240,903, consisting of 221,697 passenger cars and 19,206 trucks.

Profit and Loss Statement of Asbestos Corporation of Canada Limited, for 1922, as taken from their Annual Report

Profits, after reserving for Texas and Exhaustion Minerals		$ 727,093.74
Interest on Investments, etc.		152,192.46
		$879,286.20
Deduct Bond Interest	$150,000.00	
Deduct Provision Exhaustion and Depreciation	194,299.73	
		344,299.73
Profits for Year		$534,986.47
Deduct Dividends Preferred	$280,000.00	
Deduct Dividends Common	180,000.00	
		460,000.00
Surplus Profits for Year		$ 74,986.47
Add Surplus Balance from previous year		2,136,090.47
Surplus as per Balance Sheet		$2,211,076.94

Comments on the Wire Market

By the end of February wire bars had advanced to 16¾ to 16-⅞c for delivery into second quarter, an advance of almost 2c per pound during the month. Domestic and export demands have continued active and higher prices are predicted.

Scarcity of zinc for nearby shipments has apparently forced an advance of about ½c per pound; 7.65 to 7.70 cents St. Louis being quoted for prime Western for March and April delivery; the price for May and June delivery being a little easier.—*Standard Underground Cable Co.*

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EASTERN OFFICE and FACTORY SCRANTON, PA.

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NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

The thirty-fourth annual convention of the Heating & Piping Contractors National Association will be held at the Hotel Drake, Chicago, Ill., May 23rd to 26th, 1923.

The International Automobile Exhibition will be held in connection with the Goteburg Jubilee Exposition in Goteburg, Sweden, May 8th to July 15th, 1923.

An official of a large Asbestos concern estimates that 6,000 miles of automobile brake linings will be used during 1923.

"An Improved Method of Analysis for 85% Magnesia Covering" is the title of a paper written for the Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, by H. W. Greider, Magnesia Fellow in the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, Pittsburg. Reprints of this paper are in the office of "ASBESTOS" and can be lent to anyone interested.

October 4th to 10th, 1923, is the date of the show at the Grand Palais, Paris, France. Passenger cars, motorcycles, accessories and bicycles will be on display.

During January 1923 building contracts awarded in twenty-seven states, totalled 6,126 buildings, valued at $217,333,400, a decrease of approximately 2700 buildings but an increase of over two million dollars in value, over figures for December. Contemplated projects are valued at $688,319,300, or an increase of about $265,000,000, over December. In both these classifications residential buildings lead, both in number of buildings and value.

During May 1923, the International Road Congress will be held at Seville, Spain.

If the day looks kinder gloomy, an' the chances kinder slim,
If the situation's puzzlin' an' the prospect awful grim;
An' perplexities keep pressin' till all hope is nearly gone—
Just bristle up and grit yer teeth, an' *keep on Keepin' on.*

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NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

Samples of crude asbestos have been received from the Cyprus Asbestos Company, Limited, thru their British Agents, the Middle East Development Corporation, Limited, of London, as well as circulars describing and illustrating their mines and mill buildings.

The samples show the product of the Cyprus asbestos mines to be an exceedingly good grade of shingle stock. We will be glad to forward a sample of their product to any interested reader.

We understand that Asbestos Limited, Bound Brook, N. J., is preparing a grade of asbestos spinning fibre which tests 16 oz. on the first and second screens of a Standard Testing Box.

This material contains no shorts and is ready for the spinner's use.

The preparation of this new type of fibre by Asbestos Limited means that the spinner will not experience any loss in preparation, as the shorts and dust from the fibre are entirely eliminated.

One of the large Asbestos plants has on hand for disposition to the highest bidder, some short lengths of standard sizes of treated brake lining, quite a bit of untreated brake lining containing some few imperfections, some wire inserted gasket cloth, a quantity of made up gaskets of various sizes on which the rubber has hardened, together with a considerable tonnage of scrap asbestos sheet. Anyone interested in this material may obtain the name of the holder by writing "Asbestos."

The United & Globe Rubber Company of Trenton, N. J., has recently been absorbed by the United & Globe Rubber Corporation, the latter company having been recently incorporated in Delaware. The new company has acquired all the assets, patent rights, trade marks and business of the old company. John S. Broughton, president of the old company is now chairman of the board of the new concern, and Guy de la Rigaudiere, President of the Traveler Rubber Company of Bethlehem, Pa., has been elected President of the new company. The action was made necessary by a demand for the company's products, making larger capital necessary.

"Asbestos—How It Is Mined, Spun and Used" is the title of a very interesting article appearing in the February issue of Raw Material, the author being F. H. Mason.

"Brake Inspection—Your Protection" is the slogan that has

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ASBESTOS



Bennett-Martin
Asbestos and
Chrome Mines
LIMITED



Head Office

Thetford Mines, P. Q.
Canada

General Sales Office

220 Broadway, New York

Mines Located at

Thetford Mines and Vimy Ridge

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SUPERBESTOS

Hydraulic Compressed Brake Lining

"Made on the Banks of the Wabash"

Highest grade of Brake Lining produced today. Coefficient of friction, tensile strength and durability unsurpassed.

Sold to manufacturers, distributors and jobbers at special prices on a quantity basis.

MIKESELL BROTHERS COMPANY

Manufacturers of Asbestos Textiles

WABASH - INDIANA

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just been adopted by the Asbestos Brake Lining Association.

The new slogan will be used by members in their individual advertising campaigns and on their stationery.

Among the slogans considered were: "For Safety's Sake, Inspect Your Brakes," "Your Brakes—Inspect or Regret", "Good Brakes Save Bad Breaks—Inspect Them", "Good Brakes are the Best Insurance", "Better Brakes—Fewer Fatalities", "Avoid Accidents—Inspect your Brakes", "Inspected Brakes Prevent Accidents", "Brake Inspection Saves Life", and "Best Asbestos Brake Lining Saves Lives."

The Clark-Fisher Company, 1893 East 55th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, has been succeeded by the Clark Asbestos Company, the latter company having bought out the Fisher interests. Location of warehouses and offices are the same as previously.

"ASBESTOS" wishes to acknowledge the receipt of a very beautiful calendar recently mailed by Hobdell, Way & Company of London.

A four page folder, attractively printed in brown and describing the distinctive features of S—P "Asawco" Brake Linings, is the latest piece of printed matter published by the Asbestos Spinning and Weaving Corporation of New York City.

From a London paper we note that one A. M. Low has invented a non-breakable cigarette ash, semi-rigid, which will neither fall off or crumble. Asbestos is said to be used in the composition of the cigarette.

The Johns-Manville Company has recently purchased the residence of Mrs. William G. Rockefeller, 292 Madison Ave., New York City. With this purchase Johns-Manville has secured title to one of the most important plots in the 42nd Street district, with ninety-five feet on Madison Avenue and ninety-six feet on Forty-first Street.

Announcement is made of the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. H. Paul Barnes of Ambler, Pa. Mr. Barnes who has been connected with the Keasbey & Mattison Company for several years, was recently appointed manager of their Philadelphia office. Mrs. Barnes is the daughter of the Hon. J. Hampton Moore, Mayor of Philadelphia.

Reports from Casper, Wyoming, indicate that the Casper Asbestos Chimney Blocks, manufactured by Fred Patee of that city, are finding high favor with individual householders, with the city authorities and with the United States Government. A new city building ordinance in Casper specifically mentions Casper Asbestos Chimney Blocks as acceptable and eighteen

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ASBESTOS FIBRE

FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF

Asbestos Millboard
Asbestos Paper
High Temperature Cements
Pipe Coverings
Asbestos Shingles and Lumber
Insulating Cements
Fibrous Paints
Filtration Packings
Roofing Cements



THE QUEBEC ASBESTOS CORPORATION

Office and Mines

East Broughton, Province of Quebec
Canada

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U. S. Government owned houses in the town are using these chimneys.

Canadische Asbest Aktiengesellschaft, Grimm 10, Hamburg, Germany, was established on December 11th, 1922, being a joint stock company for the handling of Canadian Asbestos, as well as the carrying on of other business of various kinds excluding dealing in real estate.

The capital of the Company is 10,000,000 marks divided into 10,000 shares of 1,000 marks each, the capital stock being fully paid in. The company will do business either thru two members of the Executive Committee or one such member conjointly with one duly empowered to sign for the company. The Advisory Board can empower any member of the Executive Committee to act for the company in his individual capacity.

The announcement is signed by Joseph Van Hooghten and Otto Krahn, as the Executive Committee.

"Asbestos Resources of Canada" is the title of an article appearing in the February 20th issue of the Canadian Textile Journal. Do our readers notice the ever increasing amount of space being given by technical journals to the subject of Asbestos?

It is our pleasure this month to offer congratulations on the occasion of their birthdays to three prominent men in the Asbestos Industry: M. E. White, treasurer of the Norristown Magnesia & Asbestos Company at Norristown, Pa., whose birthday occurs on March 21st; A. S. Farmer, president of Conneross Yarn Mill, Anderson, S. C., whose birthday date is April 3rd, and A. W. Jack, president A. W. Jack Corporation, Lockport, N. Y., whose birthday is April 8th.

The new Apartment Hotel in Newark, N. J., has adopted the "three-in-one" idea, and the alcoves used for the kitchens are separated from the living rooms by soft-toned, attractive **asbestos** curtains.

John W. Latchum, president of the American Insulation Company, sailed for Europe about the middle of February.

Edward S. Davis, a wealthy Chicagoan, was recently elected Vice President of Mikesell Brothers, and will take an active interest in the Company's affairs.

W. A. Godfrey, Manager and Secretary of Cape Asbestos Company, Limited, recently visited Capamianto, S. A. I., their Branch Factory at Turin, Italy. Mr. Godfrey's comments on the industrial situation in Italy are given elsewhere in this number.

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ASBESTOS

The Editor has recently seen a sample of Asbestos Paper, which it is claimed, contains no foreign matter whatever. The Paper is pure white, very soft and about as thick as an ordinary piece of writing paper. Another curious article in the Asbestos Paper line is a piece on which a photograph has been developed.

The Bureau of Standards, Washington, is conducting tests in connection with Asbestos Theatre Curtains. Tests have already been made on plain cloth and cloth reinforced with various wires, brass, monel, nichrone, etc., and tests on the curtains themselves will be conducted by the Bureau during the next two months. "ASBESTOS" will be kept informed of the results of these tests when ready for publication.

The Duke of York, as President of the Industrial Welfare Society, on February 15th, visited the works of the British Fibrocement Company at Erith in company with Mr. Buxton, an official of the Company. The Duke became for the moment an actual operative, standing in front of a machine and trimming some of the material.

With regret we report the death of Mr. Berthold Marcuse, at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, on March 3, 1923.

He was active in the asbestos industry some years ago and in a later issue we will tell something of his life and asbestos activities.

Mr. Berthold Marcuse was the father of B. Marcuse, president of the Asbestos Fibre Company of New York City.

BUYERS CLASSIFIED INDEX

Being a listing of those firms whose products are of particular interest to those in the Asbestos Industry.

Rate for listing supplied on application.

We hope to gradually make this listing of great value to our readers.

CARDING AND SPINNING MACHINES FOR ASBESTOS YARNS

Whitin Machine Works, Whitinsville, Mass.

Paul Hammerich

Inspector of Asbestos, Crude and Fibre. Reports on Asbestos Mines and Mills.

THETFORD MINES - QUEBEC, CANADA

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ASBESTOS
USACO

UNITED STATES ASBESTOS CO.

General Offices and Mills

Manheim, Penna.

MANUFACTURERS OF

ASBESTOS
BRAKE LINING
CLUTCH FACINGS
FABRICS
LISTING
PACKING
TAPE
YARNS

SALES OFFICES and WAREHOUSES

New York
Pittsburg
Boston
Lancaster
Chicago
San Francisco

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ASBESTOS ROOFINGS

UNDERWRITERS LISTED

2-Ply White Seal in Rolls

3-Ply White Seal in Sheets

4-Ply White Seal in Sheets

4-Ply Fire Chief Burlap Centre in Rolls

2-Ply Black Seal in Rolls

3-Ply Black Seal in Sheets

4-Ply Black Seal in Sheets

1-Ply Imperial No. 2 Asbestos Saturated Felts in Roll

ASBESTOS BASE FELT ROOFINGS

Asbescoat—No. 52 Roofing—50 lb. in Rolls
Asphalt Coated Both Sides

Asbeslate Roll Roofing—85 lb. in Rolls
Either Red, Green or Blue Black

Asbeslate Std.-Individual Shingles 8x12¾
Either Red, Green or Blue Black

Asbeslate—Strip Shingles—"4-in-1", 10x32 in.
Either Red, Green or Blue Black

H. F. WATSON CO.

Main Office and Factories **Erie, Pa.**

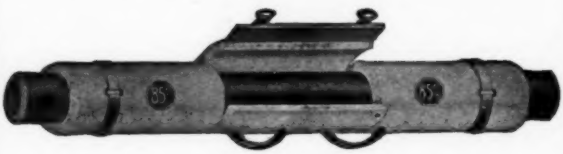
79 MILK ST. BOSTON

5331-9 SO. WESTERN AVE. CHICAGO

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85% Magnesia

STEAM PIPE AND BOILER COVERINGS AND LOCOMOTIVE LAGGING



The Lightest Weight Steam Pipe and Boiler Covering Made

That is Structurally Strong and Permanently Effective

IS

"Ehret's 85% Magnesia"

Made at

VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

Since 1897

By

Ehret Magnesia Manufacturing Co.

Distributors Everywhere

BRANCH OFFICES

NEW YORK PHILADELPHIA CHICAGO

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AMERICAN ASBESTOS COMPANY

Manufacturers of
Asbestos Textiles

NORRISTOWN, PA., U. S. A.

Headquarters for Yarns, Cloth, Tapes, Fibres, Brake Linings and Textiles Generally

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