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Industrial Safety Bulletin September 1932

Maine Department of Labor and Industry

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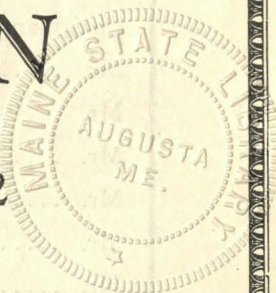
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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 1932



Today in sharp contrast with past industrial history we find a new controlling thought. That is the new appreciation of the importance of the human equation, of the economic as well as social value of its protection and conservation.

WILLIS H. BOOTH
Vice Pres. Guaranty Trust Company

Issued by
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Augusta, Maine

OCT 10 1932

Plant Routing:

Superintendent
Master Mechanic
Steam Supt.
Electrical Supt.
Maintenance Supt.
Safety Director
Plant Nurse
Chairman, Safety Com.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.

Please read thoroughly
and pass along promptly
according to this
routing. One idea thus
gained may save a life.

S-A-F-E-T-Y
spells
GOOD BUSINESS

We suggest that this cover
be folded back on heavy line
and clipped. Check names of
those you wish to read the
material in this Bulletin.

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY - - AUGUSTA, MAINE

CHARLES O. BEALS, Commissioner

Walter J. Brennan
Edward K. Sawyer
Minnie E. Hanley

Safety Engineer
Inspector
Woman Factory Inspector

Vol. I

September 1932

No. 14

LET'S BE CONSISTENT

Recently a worker attempted to adjust an intricate and valuable machine while it was in motion. His wrench slipped from his hand, dropped into the mechanism and wrecked the equipment. The plant manager and his subordinates figuratively "raised the roof" in their denunciation and correction of such a careless practice.

There is little reason to believe that such a thoughtless act will again occur; because production was interrupted and property damaged to the extent of \$1000. Executive attention was focused on the circumstance with the result that a clearly-understood policy resulted.

It seemed odd that no mention was made of the folly of jeopardizing an arm. Surely the costs associated with a mangled limb would be greater and there are no replacements to be bought. The skilled worker represents a tremendous investment (if we must reduce considerations to a sordid monetary basis) and must not be lost sight of if we are to be considered consistent.

All about the scene of the injury were men wiping moving machinery, feeding nips of rolls, kicking off belts with their feet, oiling, and otherwise exposing their loose clothing to moving parts. Every person in authority knew of frightful injuries so caused; all seemed content to wait for the horse to be stolen before locking the stable door.

The remedy for machine-wrecking is the salvation of the worker. Education to establish in men's heads the folly of chance-taking and haste, engineering to remove the occasion of exposure—and ENFORCEMENT to prove that management really cares are the remedies. The worthwhile results in accident prevention will never come until highest plant authority does that which they alone can do for safety.

A GARAGE FATALITY

As in the case of every injury where hundreds of exposures are had with immunity before grief is experienced, a garage employee was killed when a car slipped off a jack to crush him. A life was wagered against the security of a mechanical device; when the device failed to function whether by maladjustment or failure a life was forfeited and, least important, a terrific financial penalty was imposed.

Throughout industry are similar set-ups waiting for the law of averages to claim victims. Rarely do we see workers and their employers taking the attitude that it is sheer folly to gamble something so precious as a life on the vagaries and frailties of a mechanical device. Good practice dictates that supplementary aids be employed.

The cheapest insurance against disaster is that vision and goodwill such as demands the use of blocking to supplement jacks, the use of jacks or blocking to insure against chain-fall failures and the like. Management must supply the necessary equipment, insist on its use and refuse to wink at violations regardless of the pressure of business or the temptation to short-cut.

In this connection it might interest our readers to know that a rear axle housing makes a fine support. By using the bell-shaped portion as a pedestal and by cutting a V-shaped notch in the small end with a cutting torch an admirable support can be had.

PERFECT SCORES — NAT'L SAFETY CONTEST

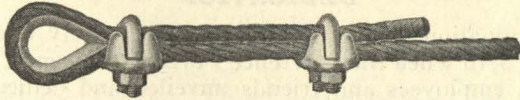
In the list of mills having perfect scores in the Paper Industry Annual Safety Contest as reported by the National Safety Council are noted several Maine mills

In Group A are found the Algonquin and Taconnet Mills of Hollingsworth & Whitney Company with 144,625 hours worked without lost-time accident. In Group B are to be found the Fraser Companies of Madawaska with 69,000 hours, St. Croix with another heavy exposure together with the Continental Bag Company of Rumford. Out of the ten perfect scoring mills in this group three are from Maine even though the entire nation is entered.

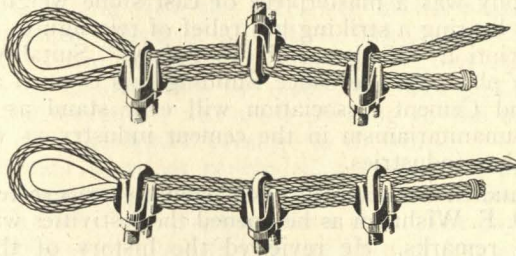
Group D with eight mills listed as perfect shows the Livermore Mill of the I. P. Co., the Riley Mill (with their seven years of perfect record) and the Abenakis Mill of Hollingsworth & Whitney Company, Waterville.

An aviator abandoned his welder's goggles in favor of regular types and "took a chance" in setting off fireworks from his plane. He became bewildered, crashed, died and the whole affair stands as a lesson to those who stop at "goggles"—instead of carrying on for the right kind of goggles to suit the work.

CLIPPING WIRE ROPE



The Right Way to Clip Wire Rope



Two Wrong Ways of Clipping

SOME DO NOT YET KNOW

Three men stood in a group at quitting time. One was using an air hose to dust off his clothes, finishing his person to turn it upon his companions. Because one of the others had a handful of paper money he turned his back upon the air blast. In the process of spraying his back, the nozzle was swept closely across his buttocks and he fell to the floor in agony. The 90 pounds of air had distended and ruptured his intestine.

If there is an air hose in your plant, workers are tempted to use it for cleaning clothes. If such hose exists some worker will be tempted to direct it at the person of an associate. Are we to shrug off the warning with a flimsy argument of "knowing better" or "never has been done here"—or—are we going to BE SURE each worker knows?

A ten-minute shop meeting will be ample for the development of the dangers associated with air hose. In conjunction with the meeting letters from management, clippings and forceful home-made posters should be used on the bulletin boards.

This subject can well be the educational topic at your next Safety Meeting.

A multitude of lacerated and amputated fingers have resulted from attempting to remove splinters and waste from saw and table with the fingers. Clearing sticks in sockets attached to the table frame are cheaper.

A shaft end struck worker in stomach to produce hernia.

LAWRENCE CEMENT STAGES TROPHY DEDICATION

The culmination of one of Maine's finest safety efforts came on August 27th when the Lawrence Portland Cement Company's executives, employees and friends unveiled and dedicated their National Safety Trophy emblematic of a safety record free from lost-time accidents for the year 1931.

The Trophy was a masterpiece of cast stone weighing 6000 pounds and bearing a striking bas relief of two figures symbolic of the inscription "Wisdom Follows Safety." Suitably located on a grassy plot near the Office Building this coveted award of the Portland Cement Association will ever stand as tangible proof of humanitarianism in the cement industry as well as a goal for other industries.

A large audience assembled under sunny skies greeted Safety Engineer O. E. Wishman as he opened the festivities with a few well-chosen remarks. He reviewed the history of the safety movement at Lawrence and developed the point that all had dreamed of the day when prevention would succeed to the extent of perfection, thus assuring both victory and an Association trophy. His glowing tribute to the rank and file of workers whose superb efforts made the affair possible was a highlight of the program.

James Thompson as Master of Ceremonies commented briefly as he introduced "Judge" Wolfe, Plant Supt., and Judge of the Safety Court where offenders tell the tale of their violations and receive their penalties. In a most difficult position, Supt. Wolfe has enjoyed a tremendous success, and has by his tact and sincerity made effective an institution peculiar to Lawrence's program.

Manager C. H. Sonntag spoke of the satisfaction it gave to foster an endeavor such as would guarantee in four short years that every man would be free from crippling injuries and in possession of every faculty, able to enjoy the fruits of labor. A striking reminder was offered to those many women present that the safety program had eliminated considerable grief and denial from some homes, and that an increased safety-consciousness in women and children would react to the tremendous happiness of all. Mr. Sonntag is one who has the genius of leadership, participates as a leader rather than merely tolerates, and furnishes the staunch pivot so essential to a prevention program.

In behalf of the State of Maine, the Department of Labor, and the many industries, W. J. Brennan, Safety Engineer, congratulated the men of Lawrence and indicated the national aspects of such a victory. Claiming that the tablet was more than a token of victory, he developed the fact that it represented a shoulder-to-shoulder accomplishment by those who direct and those who work. Such a manifestation of cooperation's poten-

tialities should be marked by some such everlasting tablet that others less fortunate may not despair. Not merely symbolic of victory, the tablet marks a milestone in industrial advancement.

The Portland Cement Association paid its tribute to a member plant by sending its Manager, Mr. W. M. Kinney, from Chicago to present the Trophy. Fully appreciative of the magnificent effort, and aware of the hazards common to the industry, Mr. Kinney's presentation address was forceful and extremely well done. In keeping with the excellence of the presentation was the acceptance speech of Mr. M. S. Ackerman, Vice-President of the Lawrence Company. To find the highest officials of the company so familiar with the results obtained and so staunchly behind the movement was most pleasing to the many present and lent a certain added prestige to the work.

The formal exercises concluded, tours of the plant were in order followed by a delicious and bountiful dinner served on "Dragon's Field," the plant's athletic park. The day closed with an afternoon of field sports attended by over 600 employees and their families.

HERE AND THERE

A new bandage material is being used with success in certain of our industries, it being a sponge rubber sheet attached to a backing of cotton fabric. By merely rubbing the two surfaces of rubber together a vulcanizing takes place to result in a neat and semi-impervious cover for sterile dressings. A finger cot can be readily fashioned from it.

The Stowell-McGregor Corporation at Dixfield is formally notifying its employees of the necessity of prompt reporting of injuries, no matter how trivial. A letter from Manager Stowell will set forth demands and reasons.

A certain amount of space on the November Conference program has not been taken care of in order to provide for your wishes in the matter of subjects. We await your advice.

The National Safety Congress is scheduled for Washington, D. C., Oct. 3-7 and the affair promises to be another outstanding event with hundreds of experts speaking before the several Sections, exhibits and demonstrations. Maine will be officially represented and your problems can be presented if you will but write the Dept. of Labor and Industry, Augusta, before Sept. 30th.

The Pejepscot Paper Company at Topsham has finished displaying the Department's home-made safety posters and reports an extreme interest on the part of its crews, an enthusiasm vastly greater than that manifested over the commercial variety of poster. These posters are the handiwork of the artists of several Maine mills and have been loaned for distribution to all who may wish for them.

A BURR PICKER FATALITY

Those having to do with woolen mill safety will be interested in the circumstances associated with the death of a burr picker operator recently. Although the exact circumstances will never be known it can be assumed that the following took place.

Apparently the brush used to clean the screen over the picker roll bound in its guides and the operator opened the door to dislodge it. In attempting to do this pressure was brought upon the screen plate to depress it into the path of the fast-running roll. For want of adequate fastenings, or the failure of certain fastenings, this was possible, with the result that the screen was stripped from its bolts and carried around to engage the worker's arm at the shoulder on the first revolution.

Frightful injuries were inflicted with the result that the man died the following morning.

Ample guides should be provided for such cleaning brushes and a lock furnished for the hinged cover through which access is had to the screen. The key to this should be in the hands of the overseer and he should see to it personally that the machine is stopped and locked out of use before repairs are attempted. The inspection of equipment with an eye to such unusual failures as this can well be undertaken and a tremendous profit can be taken by those who do not wait for the horse to be stolen before locking the stable door.

H. W. HEINRICH TO SPEAK NOV. 2nd

The many representatives planning to attend the Fifth Maine Industrial Safety Conference will be delighted to know that Mr. H. W. Heinrich, Asst. Supt., Travelers Insurance Company, has consented to address the gathering during the morning session, his subject being "Mastery of the Machine."

Mr. Heinrich's name is familiar to the many men in touch with national safety affairs as one whose contributions to safety engineering have been both frequent and valuable, a prolific writer and national figure. Outstanding among his literary contributions is the book "Industrial Accident Prevention" in which are featured his studies on basic causes of accidents as well as certain other analyses ultra-valuable to the preventionist.

Disjointing molten sulphur lines without protective clothing. Burns on forearm and wrist. The foreman ordering this job done should have surveyed the workers' clothing and eye protection equipment before permitting work to be done.

A worker's clothes were stripped off by lathe. Worker's clothes completely removed by vertical drill. Long sleeves responsible for six serious injuries around machinery.

FINE PERFORMANCES

The Burnham & Morrill Company, packers of fine food products, can boast of a most outstanding safety performance this year. The period February-August was free from lost-time and this in spite of the fish pack. Only those familiar with the hazards of the latter operation can fully appreciate the accomplishment. With 176,000 hours worked safely this firm is still going strong. 1930 saw nearly twenty accidents over the same period.

Six departments of the Maine Seaboard Paper Company have completed a year without suffering a lost-time accident, these being Paper Machines, Miscellaneous, Steam, Finishing, Greenwood and Mechanical. No plant in the state has swept forward to such phenomenal safety performances in so short a time and to these six departments can much of the credit be given, not forgetting the admirable managerial attitude and the fine organization.

St. Croix Paper Company has but a few days to complete a year without lost-time accident.

AN INGENIOUS MAKESHIFT

Ted Fullam, Safety Director, Otis Division, International Paper Company, offers the following ingenious makeshift to those who may have need of a special purpose respirator.

On a special job gas masks were found to be too cumbersome and yet men were exposed to light concentrations of sulphur dioxide. Mr. Fullam drilled a $\frac{1}{2}$ " hole in the side of a paint spray respirator canister, dumped out the chemical and refilled with chemical from a regular gas mask canister (suitable for SO₂). The hole was covered with adhesive tape and the results were most noteworthy. Frequent refilling proved necessary.

CHEAP INSURANCE

Recently a pipe hanger fell from overhead to severely injure a worker passing beneath, which proves that we can well develop special projects and thereby benefit by the cheapest of all accident insurance—stopping them before they happen.

It requires no vast outlay of time or money to send two men through our plants hunting for planks across girders, pipe fittings left on beams, bricks, tools and debris. The constant vibration of the buildings is certain to shake such material to the floor and once falling only fate determines the severity occasioned. An actual instance comes to mind where a man stood a ladder against an overhead platform only to be greeted by a shower of bricks, two striking him in the face and head.

Inspect some one phase of plant physical conditions each week and enjoy a certain immunity.

ON GUARD!

These injuries have occurred and can again penalize our industries if we fail to heed a warning. By printing the circumstances we have done our part; good business dictates that you should go into action, doing your part.

Cleaning around line shafting with broom when it became engaged to whip handle about resulting in a concussion. See editorial on Page 1.

Caught finger in winder machinery in cotton mill while cutting lap from slasher.

Finger amputated while clearing shavings from slitter knife, paper mill. A worker seriously injured when, while standing on a beater roll, another employee started up. A lock on starter or even a tag would have prevented this.

Hand caught in rolls of decating machine. While cleaning waste from edge of card hand was caught and carried under stripper. Hand caught in rubberizing rolls while attempting to clean. Hand crank left attached to tiering machine because it had been out of order. Motor was started and crank revolved to threaten serious consequences.

Kick-backs from saws accounted for a broken hand, internal injuries, fractured ribs and several narrow escapes. A splitter properly aligned and closely set, together with satisfactory saw maintenance would do much to eliminate these injuries.

Clothes stripped from worker by high-speed drill. While attempting to pick block off back side of saw a finger was amputated. Buzz planer severed finger when thin strip broke at a knot. A guard had been recommended for this machine.

Severe burns resulted from oil tank boiling over on worker attempting to shut off steam valve, located over vat. Remove steam control to point remote and stop reasoning that because oil never boiled over it never can.

Threatened loss of sight, wounds in face, trunk and limbs as the result of approaching hang-fire in dynamite charge too soon after ignition. Who "shoots" your dynamite and what is his technique on hang-fires?

Keeping cobwebs out of the brain while at work is a sweeping victory for safety.—O. I. C.

In the safety family, carefulness and contentment were born twins.—O. I. C.

NOV. 2ND

FIFTH ANNUAL Safety Conference

House of Representatives--State Capitol Building

With» a program replete with practical ways and means to accident prevention

With» an opportunity to present your particular problems for solution

With» demonstrations, equipment displays and a special meeting for industrial nurses

*The acid test of civilization is the
conservation of human life*

