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# Industrial Safety Bulletin Feb.1932

Maine Department of Labor and Industry

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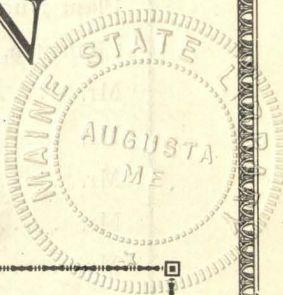
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# INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BULLETIN

FEB. 1932



LAWRENCE PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY,  
THOMASTON, MAINE, WINS NATIONAL  
CEMENT ASSOCIATION SAFETY TROPHY  
BY WORKING AN ENTIRE YEAR WITHOUT  
A LOST-TIME ACCIDENT. See Pages 4 and 5

Issued by  
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
Augusta, Maine

FEB 8 - 1932

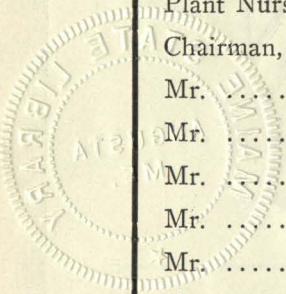
# Plant Routing:

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.





148448

# 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

February 1932

No. 7

## AN OPPORTUNE TIME

At such times as this when a great number of our industries are operating on abbreviated schedules an ideal opportunity is afforded for manufacturers to contribute liberally to unemployment relief programs and at the same time to prepare for better times.

Nearly every plant is attempting to maintain their organizations and are making most commendable efforts to keep as many wage-earners occupied as possible. We call attention to the possibilities afforded by work programs to improve physical conditions and guard machinery. Such work can best be done in a leisurely way and generous dividends are certain to result to those who see the need and order it undertaken.

Under the pressure of full-time operation many an improvement or safeguard was postponed to be attended to at a more opportune time and it would seem that now is the occasion for much of this sort of work. New ladders are doubtless needed to replace those condemned long ago, platforms need new planking and shop lights and walls need washing that the illumination we pay for may be had. No doubt stairways are demanding new treads, non-slip surfaces and the like.

Protruding set screws should be replaced with those of the flush head type, pulleys and belts require better protection and wash-rooms need a few coats of paint. These and a thousand other improvements can best be made now when small expenditures accomplish much and incidentally aid those many men so badly in need of pay-envelopes.

It is surprising to note the physical betterment that has resulted in those few of our plants where this policy has been adopted and we may expect a reflection of their foresight in their accident experience in the future.



## SMALL PLANTS NEED SAFETY MOST

A very excellent statistical study made by Mr. G. G. Grieve of the National Safety Council and published some time ago in the "National Safety News" shows that the small plants throughout the country are retarding safety progress and that their experience compares very unfavorably with that of the large organizations.

Mr. Grieve finds that in general as plants increase in size their accident records become better. The 1929 frequency-severity rates indicate that plants employing over 1000 persons have a frequency rate 33% less than that of plants employing from 500 to 999 persons. Plants with but from 100 to 499 employees had a frequency rate 40% greater than that of the large groups. Groups averaging 40 employees were but slightly better than the next largest plants.

Quoting Mr. Grieve's article, "The small plant is usually handicapped in its safety work because it cannot afford to hire a safety engineer to specialize on its accident problems"—and—"small plants on the whole have had comparatively unfavorable accident experience. This, and their failure to show improvement during the last two years (1928-29) is probably due to the common belief in small organizations that because only two or three lost-time accidents occur during the year, their accident situation has no significance. However, when it is pictured on a man-hour basis, a reliable measure of exposure to accidental injury, the number of cases may assume more serious proportions".

The small industries of Maine need not claim to be unable to afford safety engineering advice and help—the Department of Labor and Industry is maintaining such a service especially for plants of this classification. The major complaint thus far has been that the smaller plants are not availing themselves of it. Remember—if but one accident is prevented by this Service the saving is clear profit, someone has been spared suffering and you have utilized that to which you are entitled.

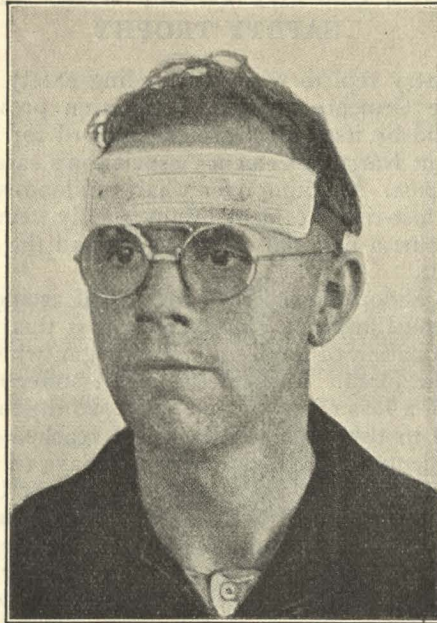
## FOLLOW THE OILERS

Safety Directors can well spend an hour or two with the oilers, following them about and observing the safety situation from the point-of-view of a man who crawls into all manner of out-of-the-way places.

If the oiler doesn't tip his can to drop a trail of oil throughout your plant he will probably set his can on a convenient stair tread or step plate on a machine. The ring which forms will become a "slick" in the presence of moisture and create a slipping hazard.

There is no individual so exposed to the viciousness of gears, shafting and belts as is the oiler and a trip or two with him will indicate a great many necessary improvements for his safety.





A cheesecloth sweatband to keep perspiration from the eyes of workers wearing goggles

#### FOR THE PLANT HOSPITAL BULLETIN BOARD

In a well-prepared and illustrated bulletin, one of the major oil companies has called attention to a case of third degree burns resulting from gasoline-soaked clothing. The patient was pinned under an overturned automobile, where he lay for seven to ten minutes with his trousers soaked with ordinary gasoline, leaking from the fuel tank. On the way to the hospital, the trousers were removed because of a stinging and burning sensation.

Because of concern over other injuries, it was some time before attention was given to the legs. After an hour, because of their red appearance, the injuries were treated as superficial burns, dressing them with a burn-ointment and bandages.

The next morning severe blistering and considerable swelling had appeared and within a few days had developed into third degree burns.

This company warns against the use of burn dressings and bandaging, until such time as it is definitely determined that the patient is really suffering from burns rather than a slight irritation of the skin. Further comment is made that the skin should have been washed with warm water and soap and left to air. It is also suggested that the company doctor and compensation department be advised at once in such cases.

—Industrial Health Digest.

## LAWRENCE CEMENT PLANT WINS NATIONAL SAFETY TROPHY

In an industry replete with outstanding safety performances the Lawrence Cement Plant at Thomaston proved its safety superiority and by its perfect accident record for 1931 has won the magnificent National Cement Association's safety trophy for the year just past. Working over a half-million man-hours without a single lost-time accident, Maine's only cement plant has suddenly become a national safety figure and the recipient of a nation's praise.

Those who have followed the progress of accident prevention activities at the Lawrence Plant realize that this victory is but a happy culmination of an effort which began when ground was broken for the plant. In 1928 this plant suffered 23 lost-time accidents with a loss of 1505 days. In 1929 the lost-time injury total dropped to three but the days lost reached 6729 while in 1930 the accidents totalled four with 325 days of lost time.

The outstanding safety success had by Safety Director O. E. Wishman is a reflection of the possibilities of a safety program based on ideal physical conditions and supplemented by liberal use of enthusiasm, cooperation and the all-important contributions of a management sold on the virtues of accident prevention both from a humanitarian and economic point of view. Every employee understood that Mr. Sonntag, General Manager, would not tolerate unsafe practices and that they were answerable to highest authority for violations of the safety rule. Safety was placed on a plane with production by Mr. Sonntag and his active participation in the many phases of the work assured success from the start.

Safety education has been taken to the individual at the Lawrence Cement Plant by means of effective bulletin displays, group meetings, literature, personal contacts and by a fine group of supervisors. Every man knows he should and must participate; an atmosphere of "production without injury" is noticeable the moment one steps on the property of this firm. Lessons have been learned from the bad experience of other years and basic causes for accident occurrence have been searched out that they may be intelligently guarded against in the future. Mr. Wishman has proved himself most versatile in his varied approaches to the subject and there is in force at present a most unique "Safety Court" where offenders are tried by their fellow-workers and penalized as well.

All Maine will send their congratulations when the National Portland Cement Association delivers the magnificent cast stone monument which symbolizes that industry's finest safety performance. Life size figures cast in the tablet depict Safety following Wisdom.



## SAFETY PAYS!

Safety engineers have changed our industry from one of the most hazardous of large-scale operations to one of the safest. It is actually safer to work in a Portland Cement plant than it is to stay at home.

It has taken ten years to bring about this happy condition and wonderful dividends are now being had—dividends in lessened fear of injury and death—in a feeling of security in family life and in the form of a better understanding between employer and employee. Safety pays liberally by making the worker a better citizen, by conserving our human resources and by lowering industrial accident costs.

Yes, safety certainly pays liberally to all.

C. H. SONNTAG, Plant Manager  
Lawrence Portland Cement Co.,  
Thomaston, Maine

*(The above statement comes from an outstanding figure in the cement industry, an executive who, by his participation in a safety program, led his plant to a National Safety Championship. Not a single lost-time accident was suffered at his plant with over a half-million man-hours worked in 1931.)*



## PROFIT BY 1931'S ACCIDENTS

There is tendency on the part of many of our manufacturers to relegate the accident experience of 1931 to a "dead file" and try to forget it as quickly as possible. Perhaps many feel that nothing remains to be done with it except to regret.

When accidents happen and the costs are assumed the only return possible is in the lesson taught. Every penalty is a fee for safety education and unless full advantage is taken of the instance an utter loss results. Too often accidents are superficially treated at Safety Meetings and dismissed with a label of "carelessness", "foolishness" and the like. No accident ever deserved such a finding and similar ones will not be prevented by any such absurd analysis.

So, in the first few months of a new year, no better impetus can be given a safety program than to call committees, executives and others concerned together for a review of the previous year's experience. Much good is certain to result. Some cases will be found to have been left hanging pending more information. Certain supervisors were not in attendance at last year's monthly meetings and so know nothing of the case. A cost picture, total and by departments, can only be had at such a late date. Improvements and changes ordered long months ago have for one reason or another not been carried out. A clean slate and a complete understanding of the details of 1931 are essential to intelligent efforts during 1932.

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### MAINE MILLS FEATURE INTERNATIONAL'S REPORT

Several Maine mills belonging to the International Paper Company have accomplished outstanding accident reduction results, according to the elaborate Annual Report emanating from the Industrial Bureau, Mr. John Lundrigan, Superintendent.

Mr. Lundrigan pays a fine tribute to the Riley pulp mill of the Otis Division, Livermore Falls, and comments on the fact that this safety-minded personnel has passed the five-year mark without a single lost-time accident. The Rumford Bag Factory has a perfect record for the year 1931, the only bag mill to accomplish this remarkable feat.

International's Webster Mill at Orono is in second place from a standpoint of "Days Lost per 100 Employees", but 35 days being lost throughout the year 1931 for a score of 26.5.

The complete and ultra-effective accident prevention set-up as built up by Mr. Lundrigan is well worthy of study by those whose safety performances suffer badly by comparison.



## FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED

Because the space provided for the storage of work about a tape rubbing machine (Stitching Room—Shoe Factory) was inadequate it became necessary to store work on the bench behind this machine. In reaching over her machine to obtain work a woman became engaged in the rubber wheel and sustained severe injuries to an arm. A screen over the machine is a temporary relief with a rearrangement of space the remedy.

An employee engaged in cleaning overhead structures with a mop had the bundle of waste wrap around a pulley as he came too close. The handle of the mop fractured his nose. Another instance of the folly of cleaning moving machinery, a practice which accounts for a tremendous toll in the textile mills annually.

Severe burns resulted when a millwright wearing low-cut shoes received a splash of molten metal on an ankle. The instance indicates deplorable lack of supervision on the part of those who pay the bills.

An eye was lost when a small block of wood was thrown by a saw as a result of the piling up of waste on the saw table. As complete a shielding of these cut-off saws as is feasible with a deflecting block and a stick made purposely to clear waste away are the remedies if goggles are not desirable.

A man carrying a pail of caustic solution slopped a portion of it on his legs and feet. No dilute acid solution was at hand and no water immediately available. Severe burns resulted. Such strong chemicals should be transported in closed containers, proper neutralizing solutions should be available and a thought given to eye protection in the pouring of such chemicals.

A severe explosion resulted when a worker struck a match in a room where materials containing naphtha were stored. The light was not sufficient for all purposes and the match was lighted with disastrous results. Lights of increased wattage with vapor-proof equipment are indicated in these cases together with a proper switch outside of room.

Loose material allowed to accumulate about a band saw accounted for two fingers when an operator slipped and grasped the saw guide and saw. A saw guide lowered to the work and with an adjustable shield following it down to the material would have prevented this. The littered floors about machines have great possibilities for accident-making.



## EVERY EYE INJURY IS SERIOUS!

There is a tremendous need for a better appreciation of the seriousness of even the slightest injuries to the eye. Frequently first aid attendants are seen to attend to an eye injury with the haphazard technique not acceptable for the most minor lacerations of the hand.

It is rare indeed that a particle of steel sawdust or mineral attaches itself to the cornea of the eye without a microscopic laceration. To remove such a foreign body with a swab laden with germs is to introduce an infection and jeopardize the sight of the worker. To use a pocket handkerchief, knife blade or toothpick is ridiculous yet very common. Hundreds of serious eye infections are traceable to some such practice.

A skilled first aid worker is justified in removing such loosely-held particles for an eye as can be engaged on a STERILE, moistened, cotton-tipped applicator. If more than a gentle wipe is needed to dislodge the particle a drop or two of 10% argyrol solution should be added to the eye, a STERILE pad placed over the eye loosely and the patient sent immediately to a doctor or eye specialist. It is all-important that nothing other than the above be attempted by first-aid attendants.

Dirt and loose particles in an eye can usually be removed by use of a STERILE solution of boric acid. Superficial abrasions can be treated with a 10% solution of argyrol followed by a STERILE pad for twenty-four hours. There is a sharp line of demarcation between that which the first aid attendant can properly do and that which requires the most expert attention and promptly. Your plant physician can supply sterile equipment, instruct as to proper technique and establish the limitations he wishes observed.

Every plant has need of definite instructions with regard to the treatment of eye injuries, whether in the first aid room or in the shops. A posted rule and constant scrutiny of the handling of eye cases will save much grief—and perhaps a few eyes.

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### IS THIS BULLETIN HELPFUL?

Occasionally we find that Safety Directors, Plant Nurses and Foremen see this Bulletin only occasionally and that they would like to be assured of it each month.

A card or note to this Department in event you see the Bulletin only occasionally, will make it possible for us to call the attention of the Plant Manager to the fact that the material herein is not completely utilized until such time as the Routing on the inside front cover is completed.

### **THE ACCIDENT OF THE MONTH**

A fragment of steel from the head of a mushroomed drill entered the neck of a worker, severed a blood vessel and the blood clot brought about a partial paralysis as the result of pressure on the brain.

The remedy is very easy if safety organizations are put to work by an insistence on the part of management. A semi-monthly inspection should

**DISCARD CRACKED TOOL HANDLES**

**SEND MUSHROOMED TOOLS TO THE  
TOOL-DRESSER**

**CONDEMN DANGEROUS RIGGING, TOOLS  
IMPOSSIBLE OF REPAIR AND CRACKED  
HAMMER AND TOOL HEADS**

**REPORT ON USE OF GOGGLES IN EVERY  
INSTANCE WHERE ONE TOOL IS STRUCK  
ON ANOTHER**

**REPORT FINDINGS IN A SPECIAL REPORT  
AND USE SAME TO CHECK AGAINST ON  
NEXT INSPECTION**



An Accident Prevented is  
a Benefaction

An Accident Compensated  
~An Apology!