

INTERNATIONAL FABRICATING Co.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Miss Van Kleeck:

It seems to me that no further report is necessary for the present, but if further inspection might be had in November or December, to see whether the conveyors are installed as I understand that in the annealing room where the dipping process is being done the acid burns and the burns from the hot shells is very bad.

M. A.

10-11-18
Miss Anderson
K

Miss Anderson
This has been
referred to St Thomas
who makes the
report indicated on
the last page. Is
further action
necessary - W.T.H.

No. 203
Ed. 6-16-18-200,000

ONE GIRL KILLED, OTHERS INJURED AT FABRICATING PLANT

At the International Fabricating Plant at Forty Fort yesterday afternoon, a belt running from a motor to a finishing machine broke and one girl, Elizabeth Kovatch, aged 17 years, sustained a fractured skull, which resulted in her death an hour later, while several other girls were slightly injured.

The Kovatch girl, with the others, was employed on a shell case finishing machine, and when the belt broke were hit by the flying end of it and hurled to the floor. The girl who was fatally injured was struck at the base of the skull. She was rendered unconscious and was hurried to the Nesbitt West Side hospital, where every effort was made to save her life, but without avail, and she expired a short time after she had been admitted to the institution. The other girls were only slightly injured and were taken to their homes.

The victim of the accident was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kovatch, of 9 Morgan street, Pringle, the former a councilman of Pringle Bor-



Helps to eradicate dandruff.
For Restoring Color and
Beauty to Gray and Faded Hair.
50c. and \$1.00 at druggists.

HINDERCORNS Removes Corns, Cal-
louses, etc., stops all pain, ensures comfort to the
feet, makes walking easy. Use by mail or at Drug-
gists. Hiscor Chemical Works, Patchogue, N. Y.

ough. She was a graduate of the Pringle high school in the class of 1917. Besides her parents, she is survived by the following brothers and sisters: Margaret, Susan, Helen, Emily, Julia Michael and John.

There is no better remedy for burns, cuts and bruises than the antiseptic and healing ointment called San Cura.

Every person ought to have a jar on hand; it is the first and best aid to the injured in case of accident, and is the ideal remedy for so many other distressing and painful ailments besides.

For example, it is guaranteed by W. D. White & Co. to relieve itching, bleeding and protruding piles, eczema, tetter, ulcers, salt rheum, boils, carbuncles and pimples, or money back.

In case of old running sores, no matter how long standing, a few applications

Coal Co.—Appeal from decision of Workmen's Compensation Board is dismissed. The referee found in this case that decedent died of tuberculosis unaffected by any accident in the course of his employment.

Mrs. Mary Martin vs. L. V. Coal Co.—Appeal from Workmen's Compensation Board is dismissed. This appeal was from an order allowing a hearing de novo.

Cluett Peabody & Co. vs. Andrew Halbach—Objections to plaintiff's statement overruled and defendant given fifteen days to file affidavit of defense.

Heberman Mfg. Co. vs. Andrew Halbach—Objections dismissed and defendant allowed fifteen days to file affidavits of defense.

S. H. Rubin vs. J. Elian—Rule for judgment made absolute as to balance and judgment directed to be entered for plaintiff for \$93.50. Court holds the affidavit of defense to be insufficient except as to \$472.50 of plaintiff's claim.

Simon Friedman vs. John B. Bieble—Rule to open judgment and stay proceedings is discharged.

Margaret Barrett vs. H. G. Davis—Rule to open judgment is discharged and execution is limited to the rent due at the time it issues.

A. H. Wilhelm Co. vs. Diamond Hardware Co.—Exceptions sustained and judgment reversed.

Frantz Premier Distributing Co. vs.

WAR DEPARTMENT
ORDNANCE OFFICE—PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT
INDUSTRIAL SERVICE SECTION

1710 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA

August 21, 1918.

REFER TO

Miss Mary Van Kleeck,
Director of Women in Industry Service,
Department of Labor,
605 Ouray Building,
8th & G Streets,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Van Kleeck:

In order to follow up the letters and various clippings from Mr. Dave Williams concerning conditions at the International Fabricating Plant, Mr. Randolph Mann of the Safety & Sanitation Branch, Production Division, Washington, and I visited the plant August 13th and 14th.

I was glad to find working conditions in the plant greatly improved since our initial visit in June. The general layout of the work has been so arranged as to make for a more systematic and continuous procedure, reducing waste effort and confusion. A hospital room has been equipped with a registered nurse in charge.

The nurse also interviews the women applicants. Number of women employed has been reduced from 400 to 300, and much of the trucking and packing of trucks formerly done by women is now being done by boys. The women, however, are still doing heavy work, operating large presses and pickling cases after annealing. As the fastest press makes but eleven draws a minute, it should not be hazardous work if moderate care is shown by operator. The annealing room is necessarily a bad place for women to work. Mr. Mann is now working on plans for a pickling machine, which if it does not eliminate the need for women in the annealing room, will lighten the work and greatly reduce their number.

Mr. Rowhan, Secretary of the Company, was in charge of the works during Mr. Owen's (the general manager) absence. He was very frank in his statements and explanations of conditions, attributing the unfortunate number of accidents to the fact that they were changing the layout of the plant while keeping up production. He said that having solved the production problem, they could and would give more attention to plant conditions. He feels some one in the plant is responsible for the newspaper publicity which they have received, and claims much of it to be grossly exaggerated. However that may be, it is all too evident that there has been unnecessary carelessness and confusion. I do not like some actions of Capt. Haggerty, and felt there might be some spirit of concealment as to the frequency and nature of accidents. Mr. Mann will follow this up on his return to the plant in interview with Mr. Owen.

I had an interview with Mr. Dave Williams and Mr. Pyrah, also of the International Association of Machinists. They were basing some of their

WAR DEPARTMENT
ORDNANCE OFFICE—PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT
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1710 MARKET STREET

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August 21, 1918.

Miss Van Kleeck

REFER TO

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criticisms on conditions as they existed in the plant last April. I told of the changes which had been made and of our recommendation for further changes. They were genuinely interested and promised further co-operation. There was a feeling that the state inspector is not on his job in this instance. Noted that there was a little resentment because the International Fabricating Corporation had put women on machines when there were still men to be had for such work.

We shall follow this matter up, and shall inform you from time to time concerning it.

Sincerely yours,

Idabelle Stevenson

IDABELLE STEVENSON
Women in Industry Branch

P. S. Attached you will find a copy of Mr. Mann's Report.

August 19, 1918.

FROM: Safety & Sanitation Branch, Staff Section.

TO: Philadelphia District Office, Philadelphia,
Pa. - Attention: Maj. R. A. Greene, Pro-
duction Manager.

SUBJECT: International Fabricating Co., Wilkes-Barre.

1. At the request of Miss Louise Cornell, and in company with Miss Stevenson, I visited the plant of the International Fabricating Company at Wilkes-Barre, Penna., under date of the thirteenth.

2. Our visit was based on a complaint from one of the local labor leaders that conditions at the plant were not favorable to the employees and it was my particular object to see what could be done toward making the work safer and lighter for the women workers.

3. As Miss Cornell has already a complete record of the number of employees, proportion of women, etc., I will not go into those details.

4. The work of this plant is exceptionally heavy for women in most of the operations, but they seem to be handling it very well. One of the worst conditions was observed in the annealing room, where cartridge cases are manually handled after each drawing operation. They go into this room in small hand-cars, wheeled by women, through the furnance on heavy iron trays and dumped while hot on the floor at the farther side. In this room, grouped about the furnance, are nine sets of dipping and washing tanks. The first tank contains 8% to 10% solution of sulphuric acid and water. Cases are placed in the acid tank by hand and fished out by the same process. From there they are placed, by hand, in a nearby tank of water and, in turn, fished out of that.

5. Approximately seventy-five women are used in the annealing room on the dipping process and some of the complaint comes from acid burns and burns from hot shells. It occurred to the writer that a mechanical conveyor could be designed which would not only eliminate the complaint, but would accomplish the same production results with approximately 50% less employees. The new method would also economize space and permit an increase in production from this department if desirable.

6. I talked over the proposed conveyor arrangement in a preliminary way with Mr. W. F. Rowhan, Secretary and Treasurer. He was interested and would be glad to put the money into the change if we can show a benefit to be derived. I am working out the details of the conveyor and, with your permission, will submit them to Mr. Rowhan - through your office - when finished.

7. During our visit we learned that one of the girls had recently been killed by a broken, highspeed, belt which struck and threw her against a pile of boxes, breaking her neck. There are in this plant a great many belts which are running at exceptionally high velocity, owing to the fact that motor pulleys are 24" or more in diameter. These belts, for the

most part, are operating on motors ranging from twenty to fifty horse power, and they are oil-soaked. It is my opinion that all of them should be guarded, as more breaks are bound to occur from time to time, although I understand these belts get regular inspection at frequent intervals. I did not press the question of guards at this time, preferring to take it up with the Manager, Mr. Owen, who was not present during our visit.

8. The matter of interior plant illumination is one that should receive attention in the interests of production and safety to employees. I spoke to Mr. Rowhan about it and offered to lay out a general system of lighting, which he was very glad to have me do. Accordingly, lamps of proper wattage were laid out in proper places on a blue print provided and Mr. Rowhan promised that men would be put to work at once in the carrying out of these suggestions.

9. While the attitude of Mr. Rowhan was cordial, I did not like some of the actions of Capt. Haggerty and one or two others apparently under his control. There seemed to be a spirit of concealment, and both Miss Stevenson and myself are of the opinion that accidents, burns, etc. in the plant occur much more frequently than reported. I believe this situation should be watched.

10. Should I return to the plant later in regard to the conveyor machinery, I will make further report on this matter of accidents.

G. J. Siedler,
Major, Ord. Dept. U. S. A.

By
A. D. Reiley,
Capt. Ord. Dept. U. S. A.

Sept. 26 '18 - St. Mann reports experiments
under way - and company ready
to instal conveyers.

WOMAN IN INDUSTRY SERVICE

August 16, 1918.

My dear Mr. Williams:

Your letter of August 7th regarding the unsafe conditions in the International Fabricating Plant is received. I am writing Miss Louise Cornell in the Philadelphia District Ordnance office and suggesting that she take the matter up with the Safety and Sanitation Branch of the Ordnance Department.

Yours very truly,

MARY VAN KLEECK,
Director, Woman in Industry Service

Mr. Dave Williams, Business Agent
International Association of Machinists
Wilkes Barre, Penna.

WOMAN IN INDUSTRY SERVICE

August 16, 1918.

My dear Miss Cornell:

I have received another letter from Mr. Dave Williams, of the International Association of Machinists, regarding accidents at the International Fabricating Plant, Mr. Williams writes that he has sent a newspaper clipping of the last accident to you. May I suggest that if your investigation has shown unsafe conditions, you report the matter to Captain Reiley of the Ordnance Department.

Yours sincerely,

MARY VAN KLEECK,
Director, Woman in Industry Service.

Miss Louise Cornell,
Philadelphia District Ordnance Office,
1710 Market Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

DAVID WILLIAMS—BUSINESS AGENT
Office and Residence, 51 S. Weller St.
Wilkes Barre, Penna.
Bell Phone 2880

WM. PYRAH, SECY-TREAS.
187 Andover St.
Wilkes Barre, Penna.
Bell Phone 3294

Anthracite District Lodge, No. 28 International Association of Machinists

Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor



GRAND LODGE HEADQUARTERS
3rd floor A. F. of L. Building
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DISTRICT LODGE HEADQUARTERS
WILKES BARRE, PENNA.

WILKES BARRE, PENNA., August 7, 1918

Miss Mary Van Kleeck,
Director, Women in Industry Service,
Washington, D C.,

Dear Miss VanKleeck,

Your letter received and contents carefully noted. Since writing to you about the young girl being killed at the International Fabricating Plant, another girl has lost three fingers of her right hand in an accident there and I am sending a newspaper clipping of this accident at this time to Miss Louise Cornell at the Philadelphia address.

Thanking you for your interest in this matter and assuring you we will do all we can to have some of these conditions remedied I remain

Very Sincerely Yours,

Dave Williams

Business Agent Dist #28, I A of M.

WAR DEPARTMENT
ORDNANCE OFFICE—PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT
INDUSTRIAL SERVICE SECTION
1710 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA

REFER TO

August 6, 1918.

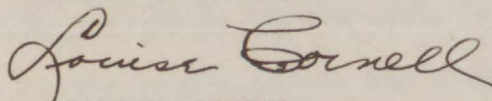
Miss Mary Van Kleeck,
605 Ouray Building,
8th & G Streets,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Van Kleeck:

Your letter of August 5th, referring to complaint on International Fabricating Corporation of Forty Fort, Pa., received. We have reason to believe that the conditions referred to in Mr. Williams' letter have been improved during the past two months.

I am planning to go to Wilkes-Barre on Friday of this week, and will send you a report of my visit.

Sincerely yours,



LOUISE CORNELL
Women in Industry Branch

August 6, 1918.

Miss Mary Van Kleeck,
605 Ouray Building,
8th & G Streets,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Van Kleeck:

Your letter of August 5th, referring to complaint on International Fabricating Corporation of Forty Fort, Pa., received. We have reason to believe that the conditions referred to in Mr. Williams' letter have been improved during the past two months.

I am planning to go to Wilkes-Barre on Friday of this week, and will send you a report of my visit.

Sincerely yours,

LOUISE CORNELL
Women in Industry Branch

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY SERVICE

August 5, 1918.

Mr. Dave Williams,
International Association of Machinists,
Wilkes Barre,
Pennsylvania.

My dear Mr. Williams:

Your letter regarding the conditions in the International Fabricating Company of Derrance, Pennsylvania is received. We are asking the Women's Branch of the Ordnance Department to make us a report and to take action in this matter immediately. Miss Louise Cornell is the representative of the Women's Branch in the Philadelphia District Ordnance office, 1710 Market Street. I am sure that she will be glad at any time to have information from you which may lead to improvement in the conditions of women's work. We shall be glad also to hear from you at any time regarding the conditions in the plants with which you have contact.

Sincerely yours,

Director, Women in Industry Service.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS.

Wilkes Barre, Penna., July 29, 1918.

Miss Mary Van Kleeck,
Director, Women in Industry Service,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Van Kleeck:

Reading in "The Official Bulletin" of your appointment to the position of Director of Women in Industry Service and that you were about to make an investigation into the various plants making war material that employ women, I decided to bring to your attention the plant of the International Fabricating Company of Dorranceton, Pa., near this city.

This firm makes cartridge cases for the U. S. Government and employs a large number of women and girls. These girls run presses push trucks over the floor and up to a short time ago worked in acid tanks and tended to hot furnace, used for annealing purposes.

Girls have their fingers clipped off there in the presses and I took some of the girls a few months ago before a representative of the Department of Labor of this State and showed him their arms, and hands which were black from working in the acid tanks.

I enclose you a newspaper clipping giving an account of an accident killing a seventeen year old girl in this plant about a week ago, and if you can come in here without any advance information being given the firm, or have an investigator come in, I believe you will get some valuable information for the Department of Labor.

Thanking you in advance and with best wishes, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Dave Williams,

Bus. Agt. Dist #28, I. A. of M.