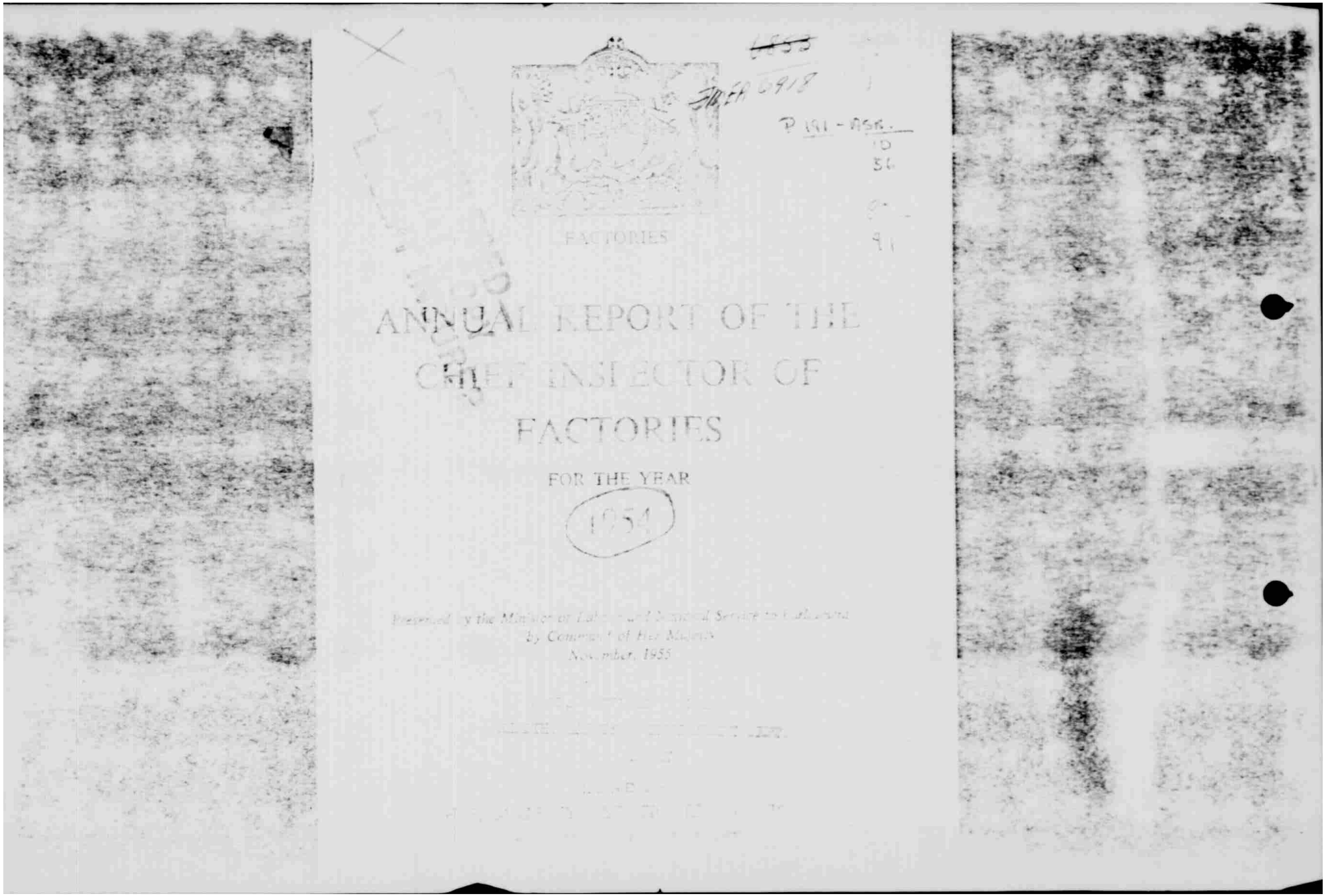


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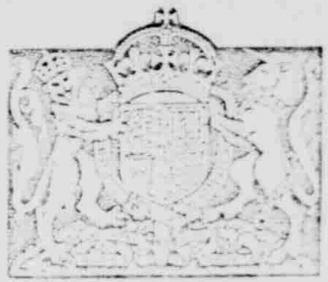
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FOR THE YEAR

1954

Prepared by the Ministry of Labour and National Service for presentation
to Parliament by Command of Her Majesty
November, 1955

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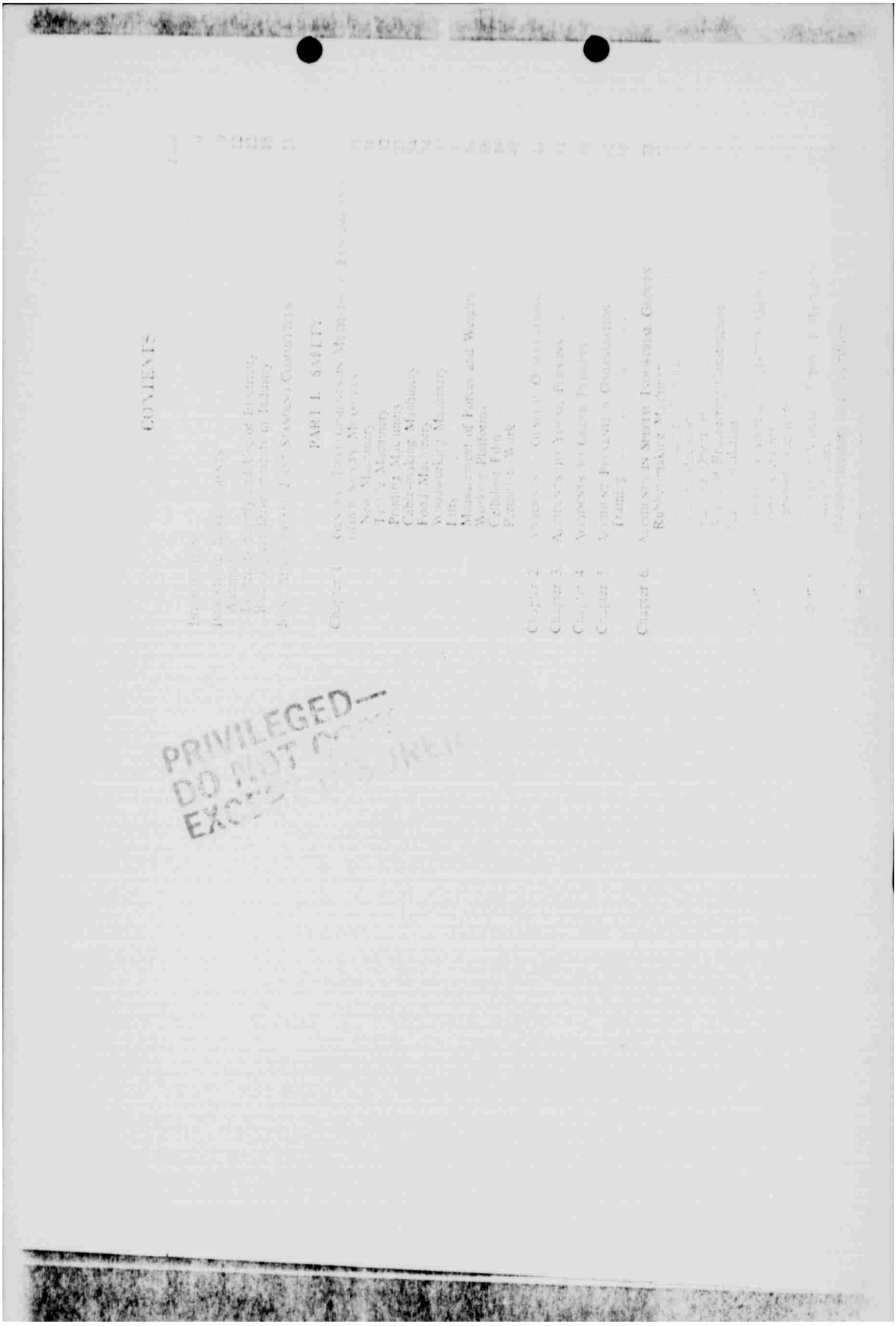
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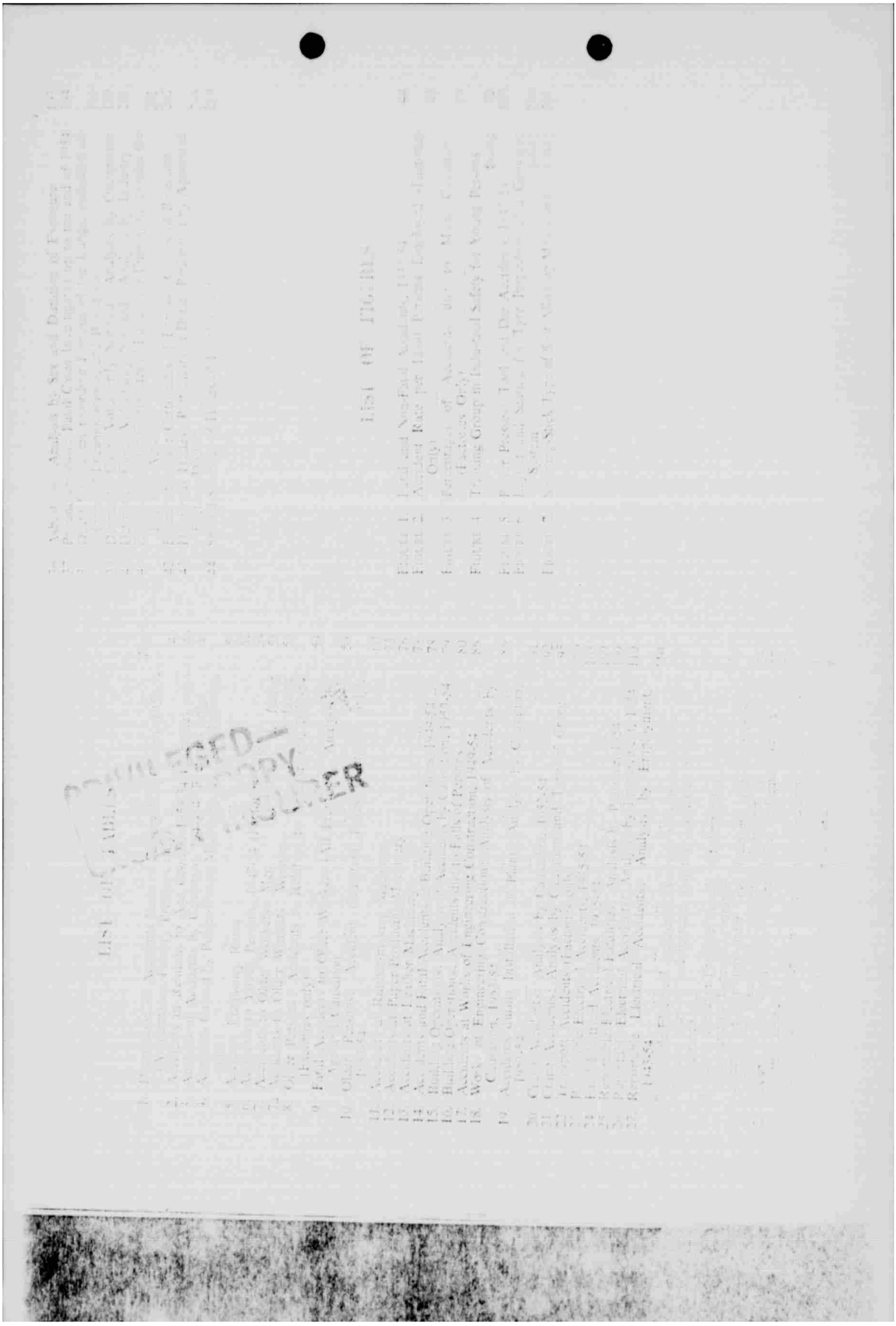
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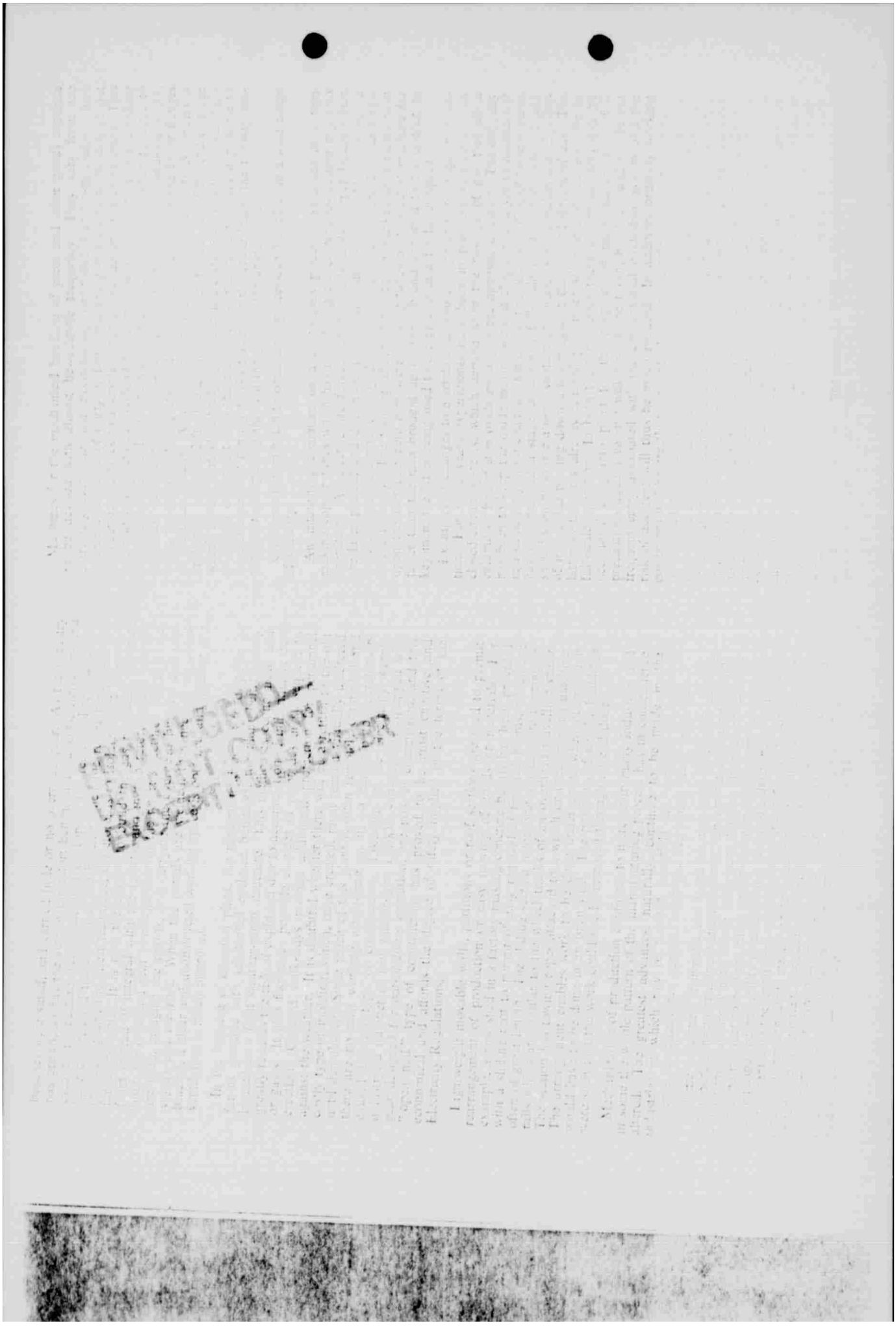


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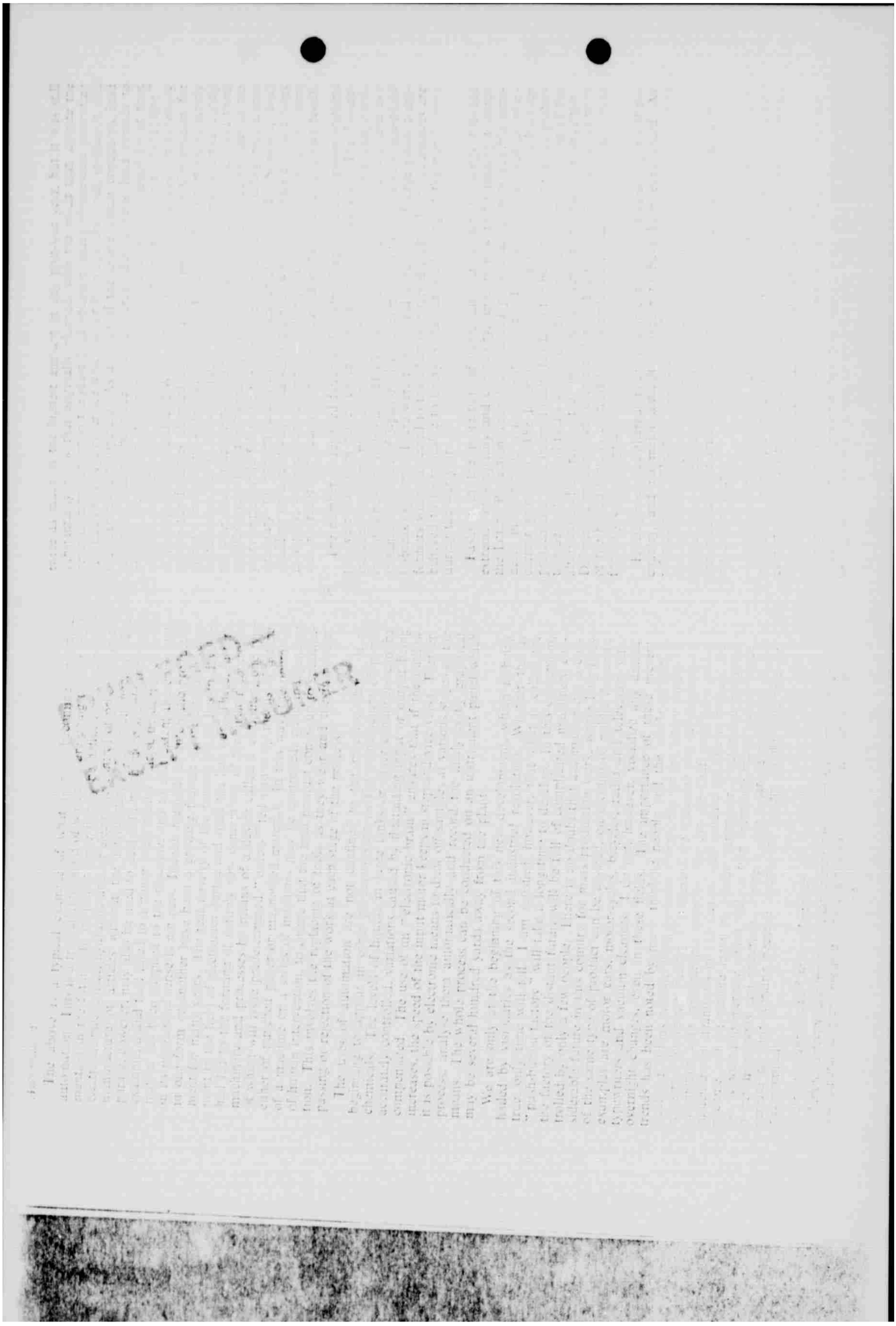
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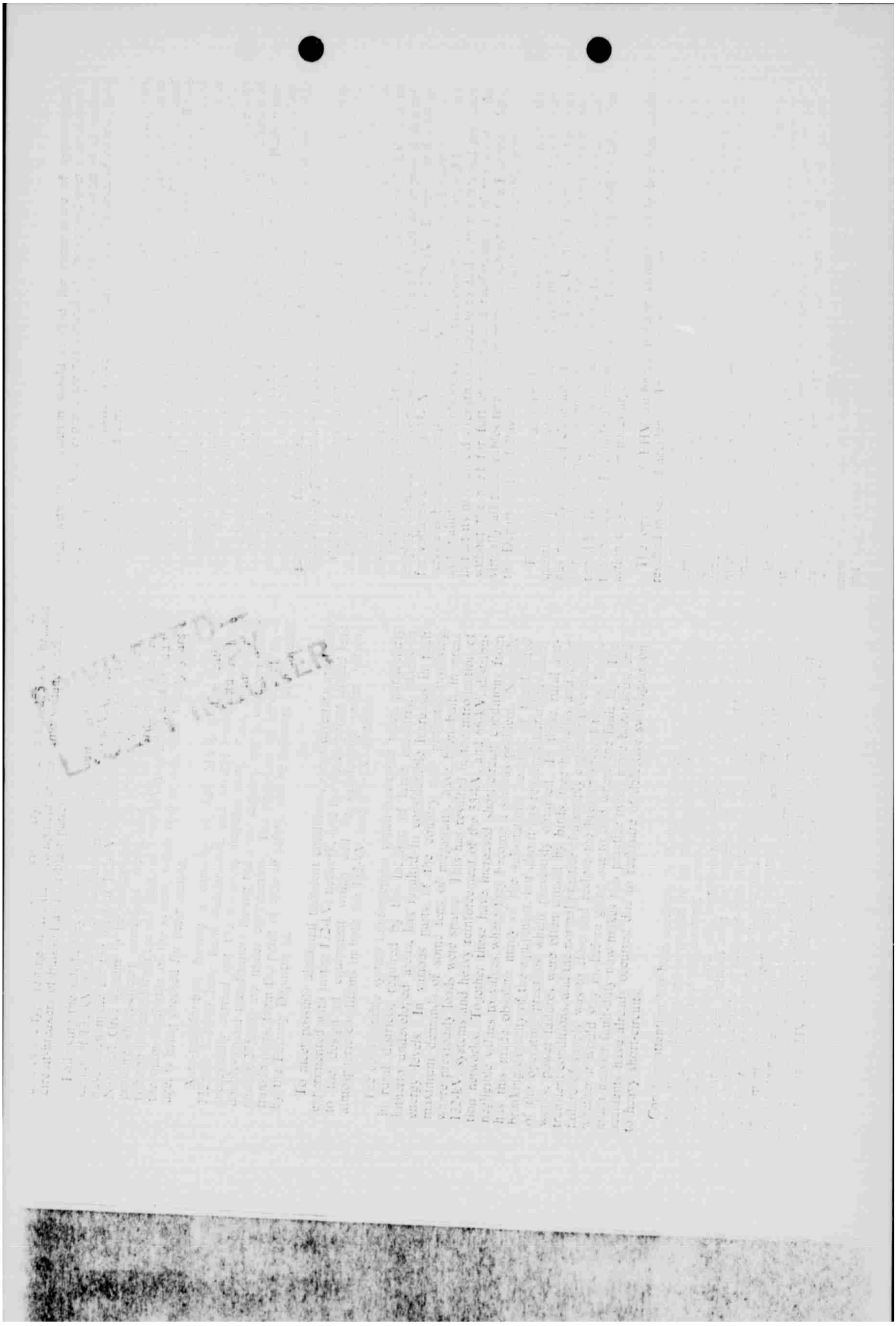
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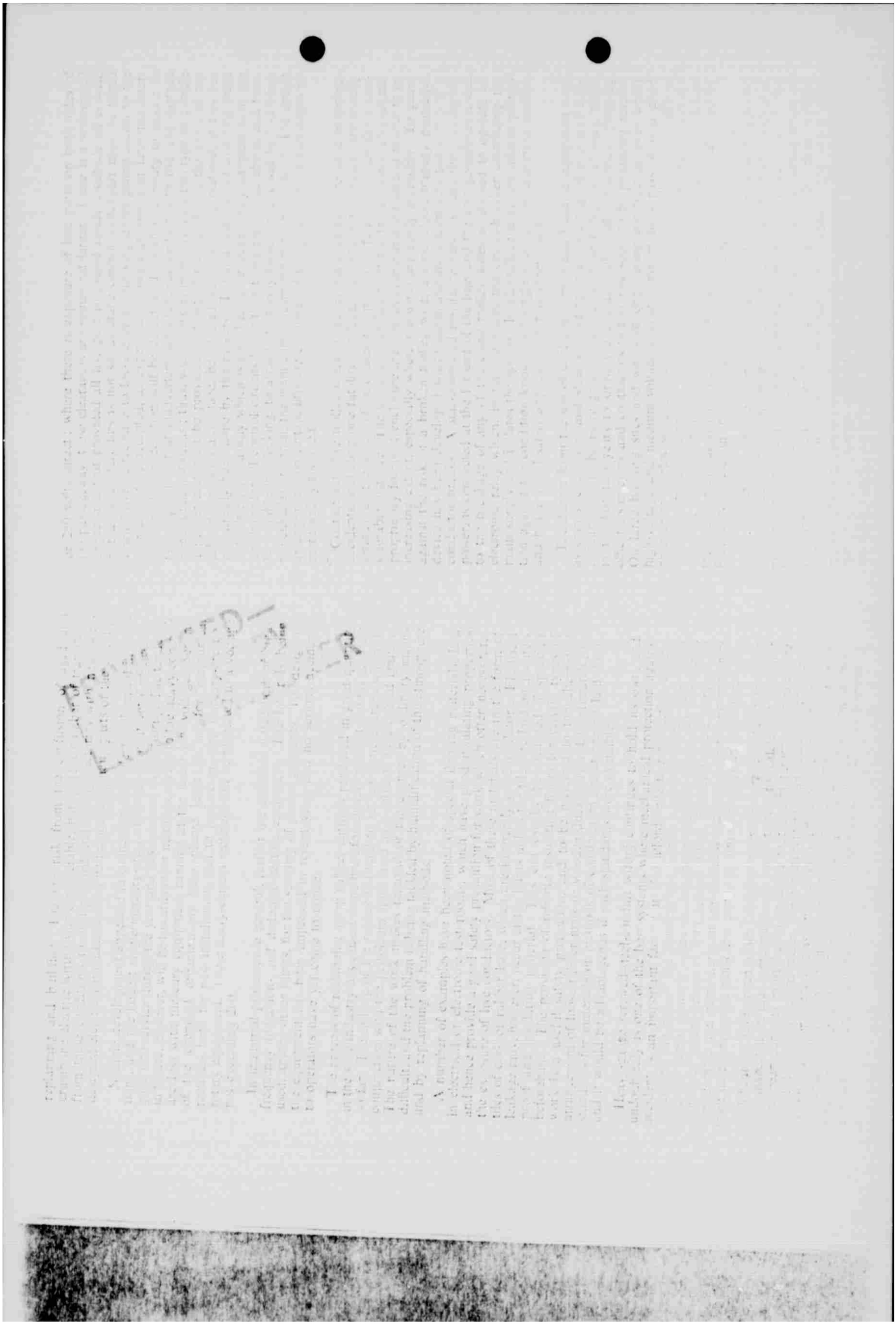
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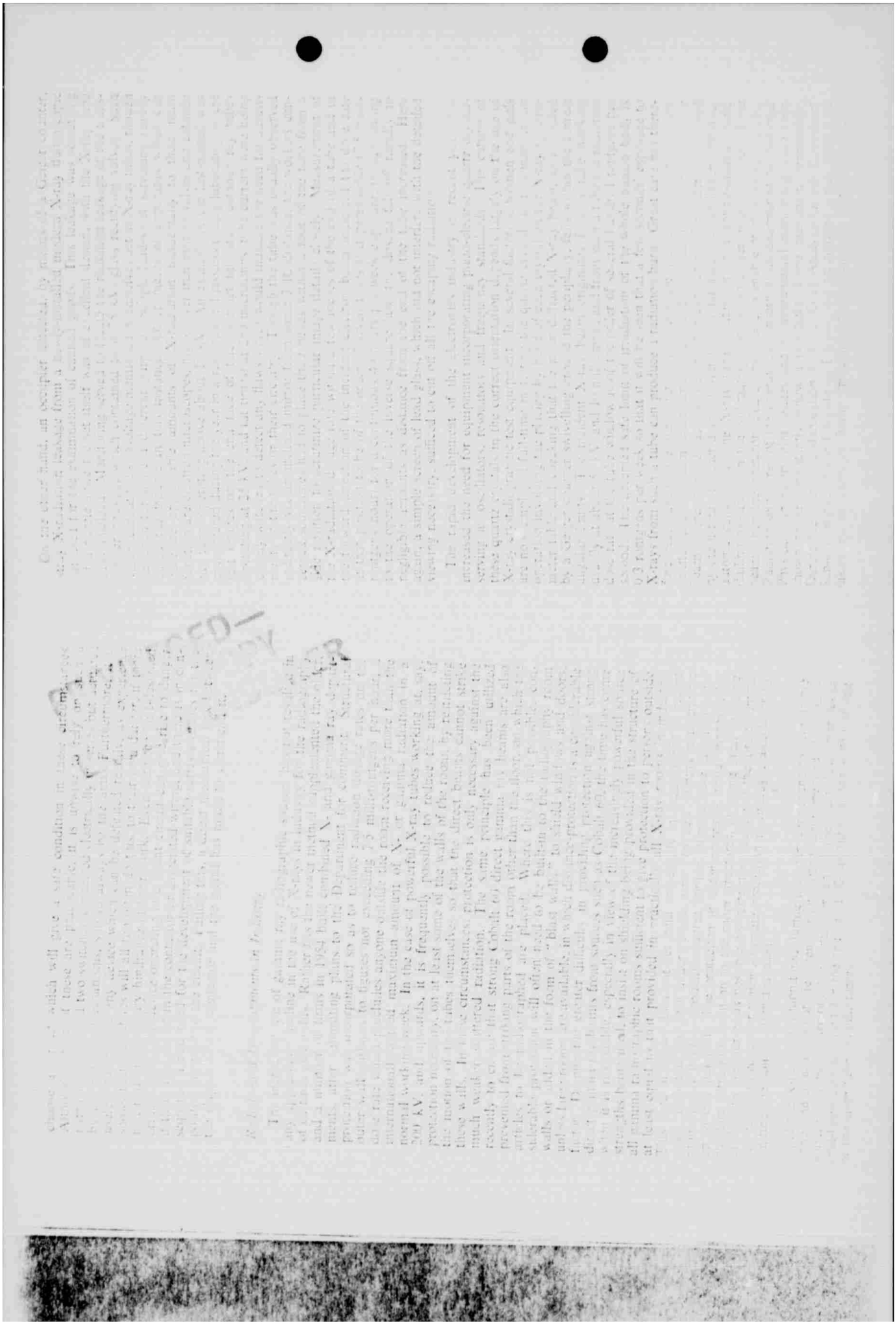
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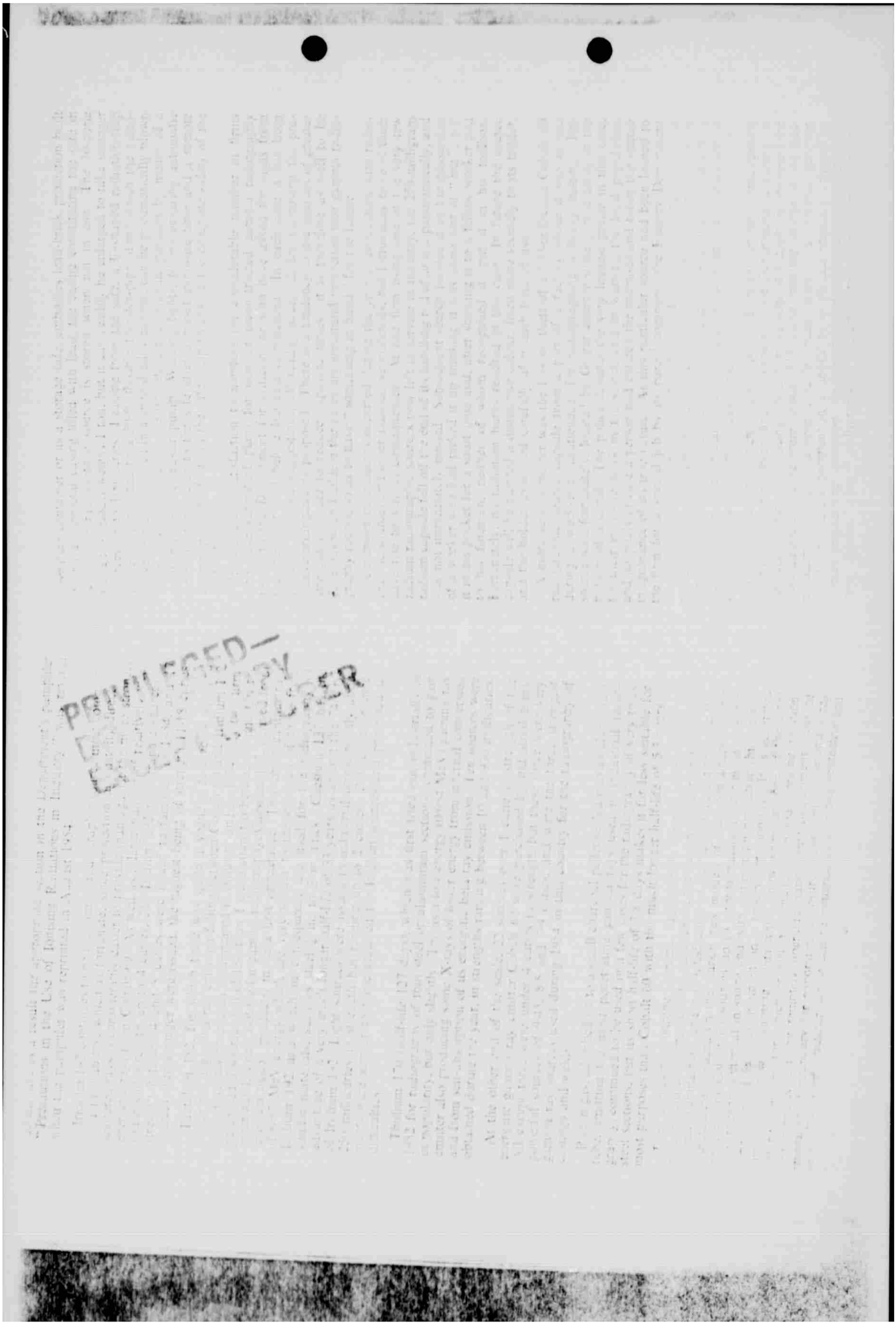
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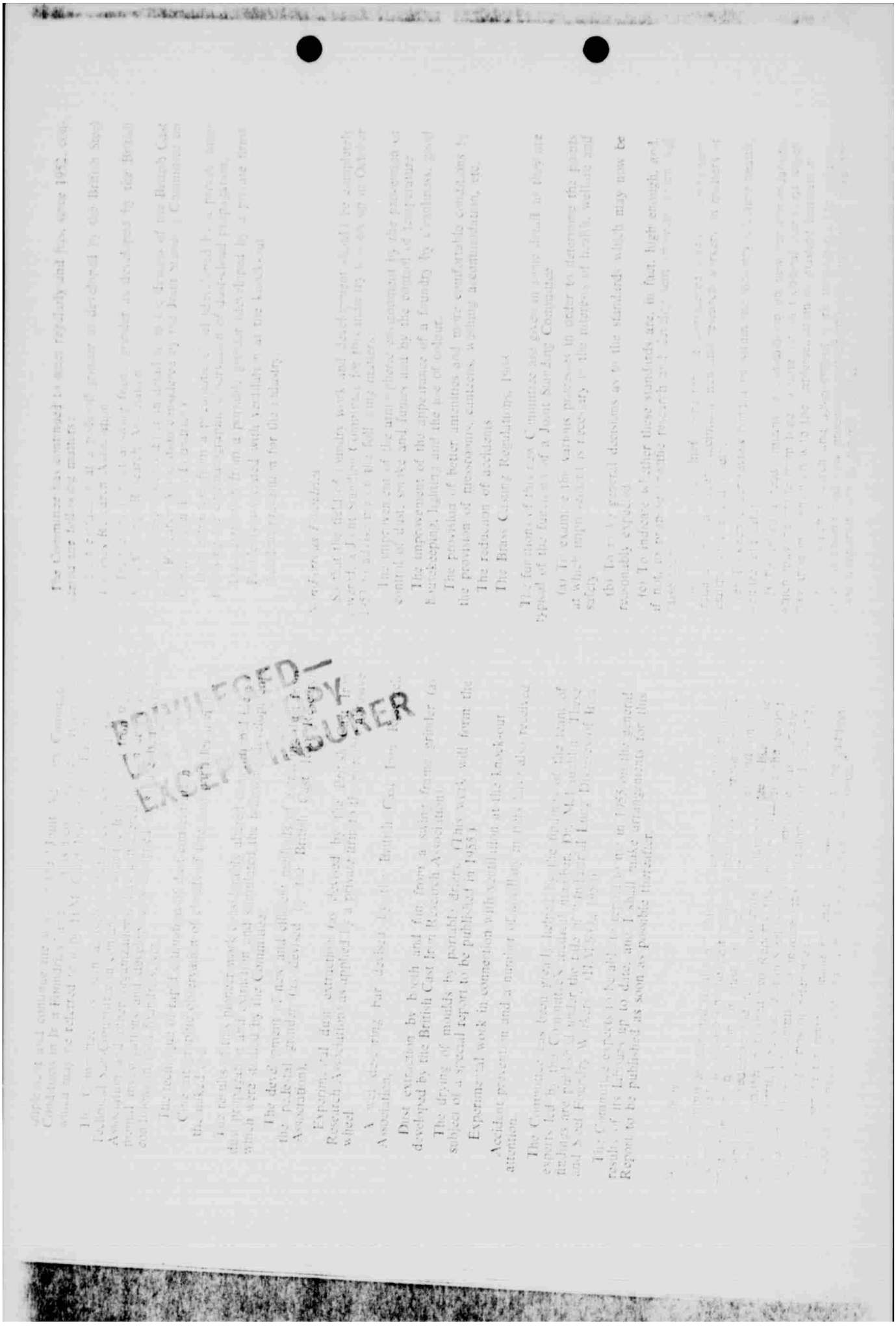


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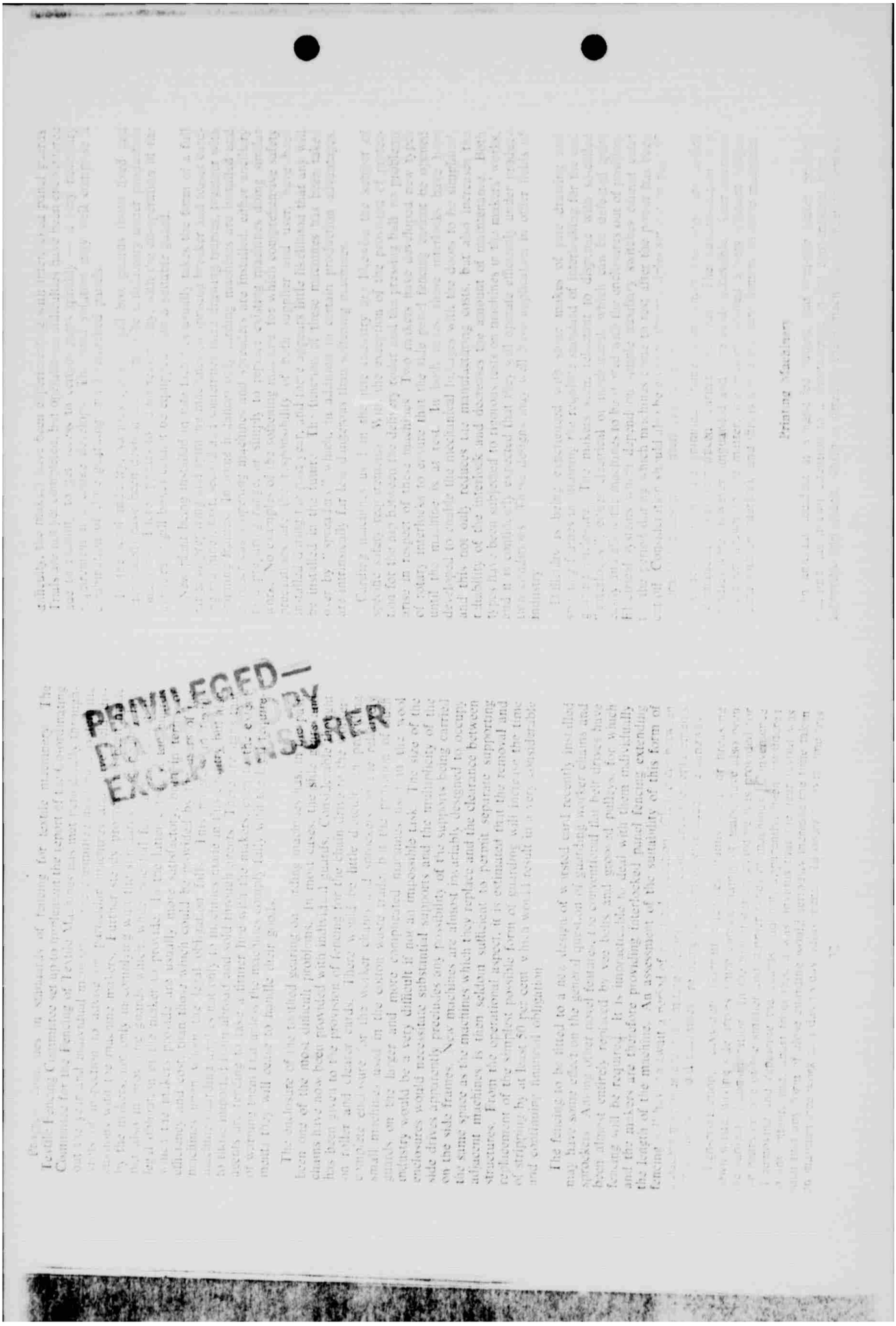
CHAPTER 1

General Developments in Method of Fencing and Other Safety Measures

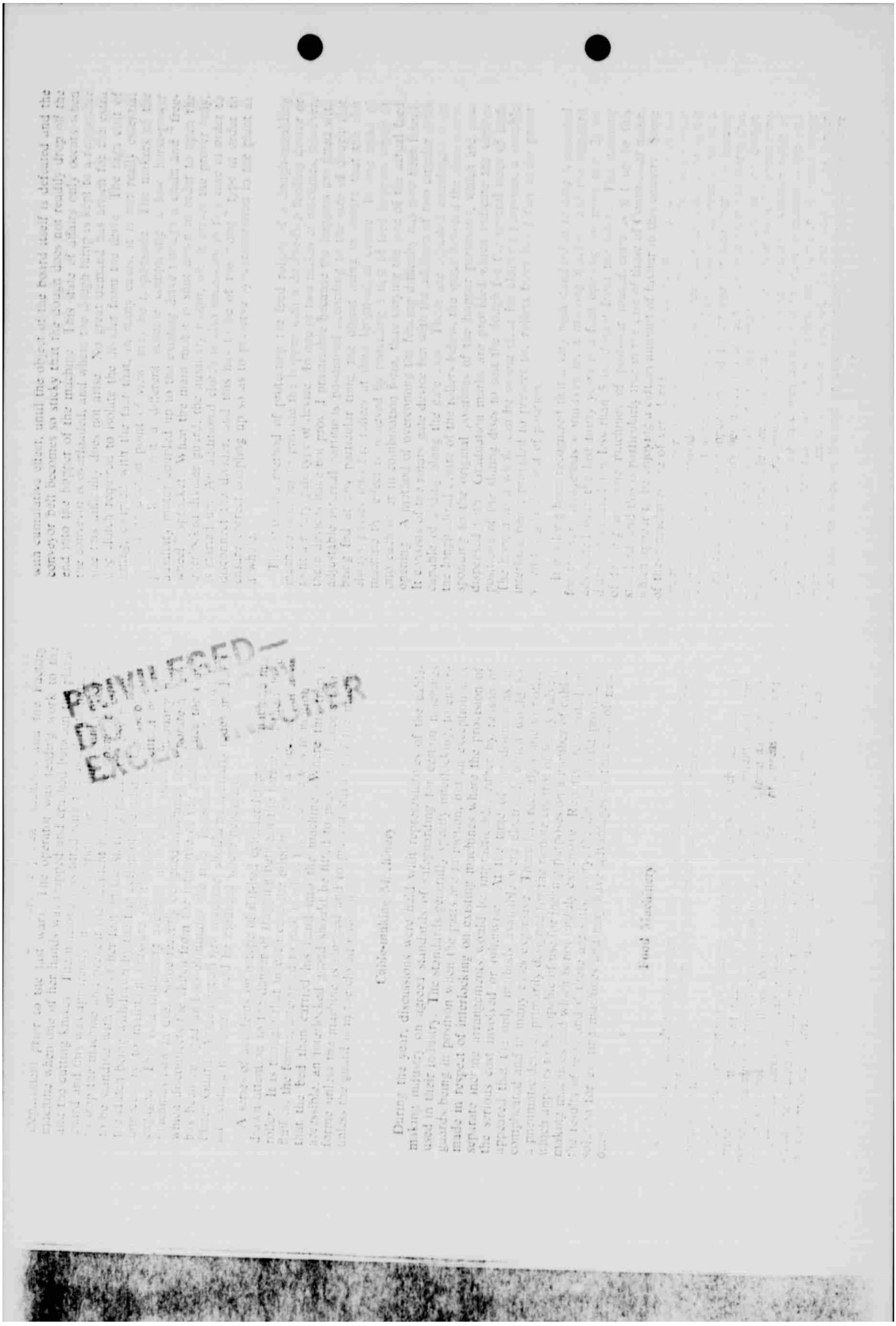
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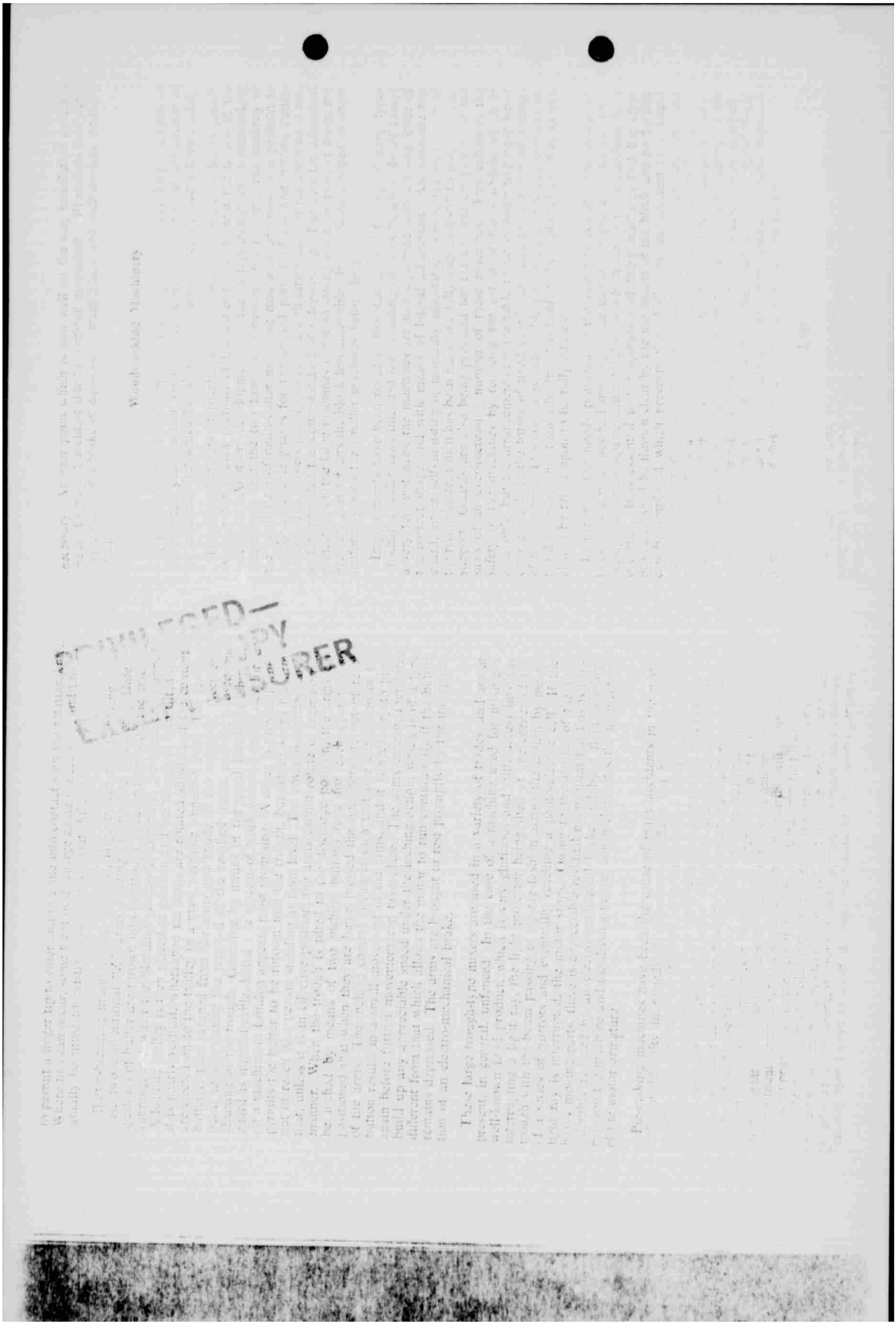
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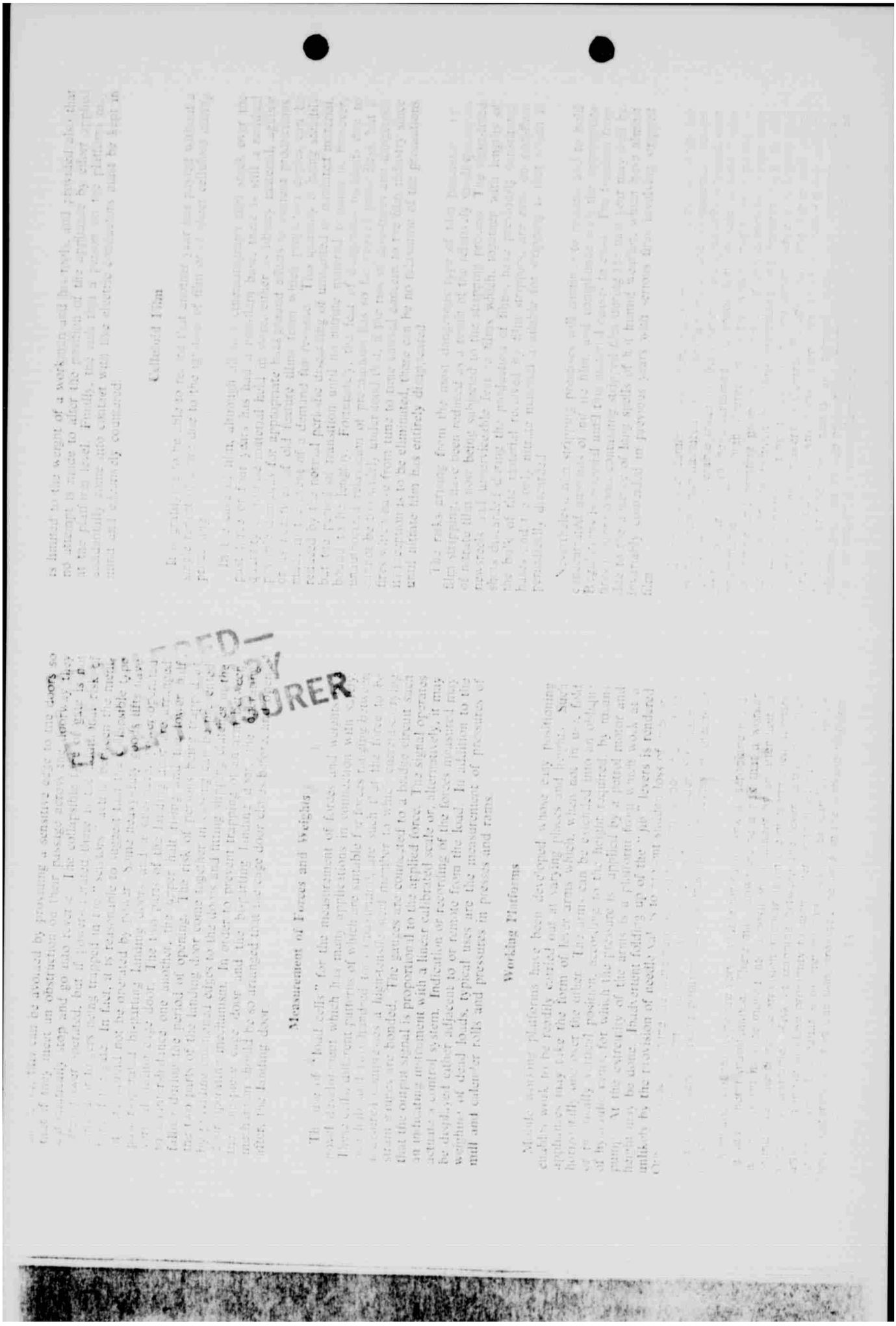
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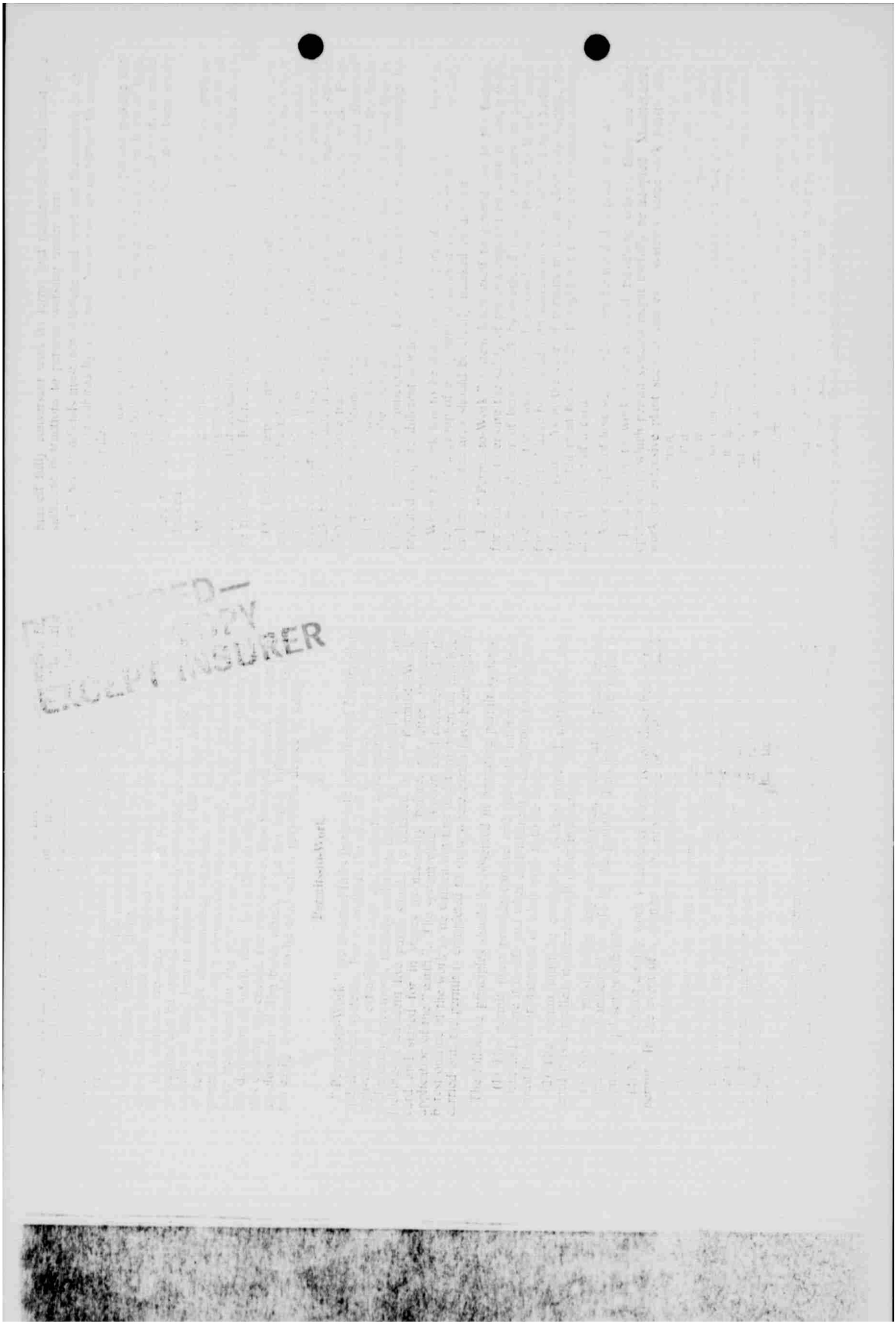
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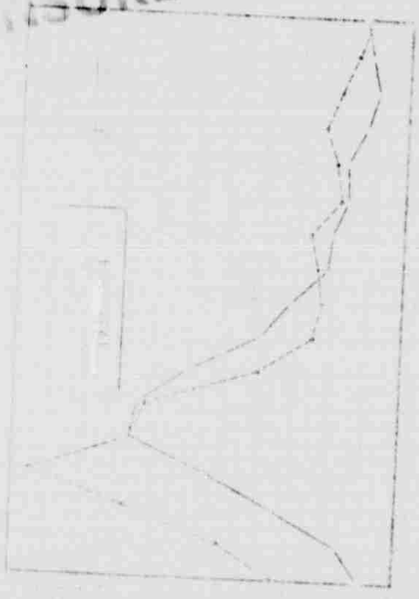


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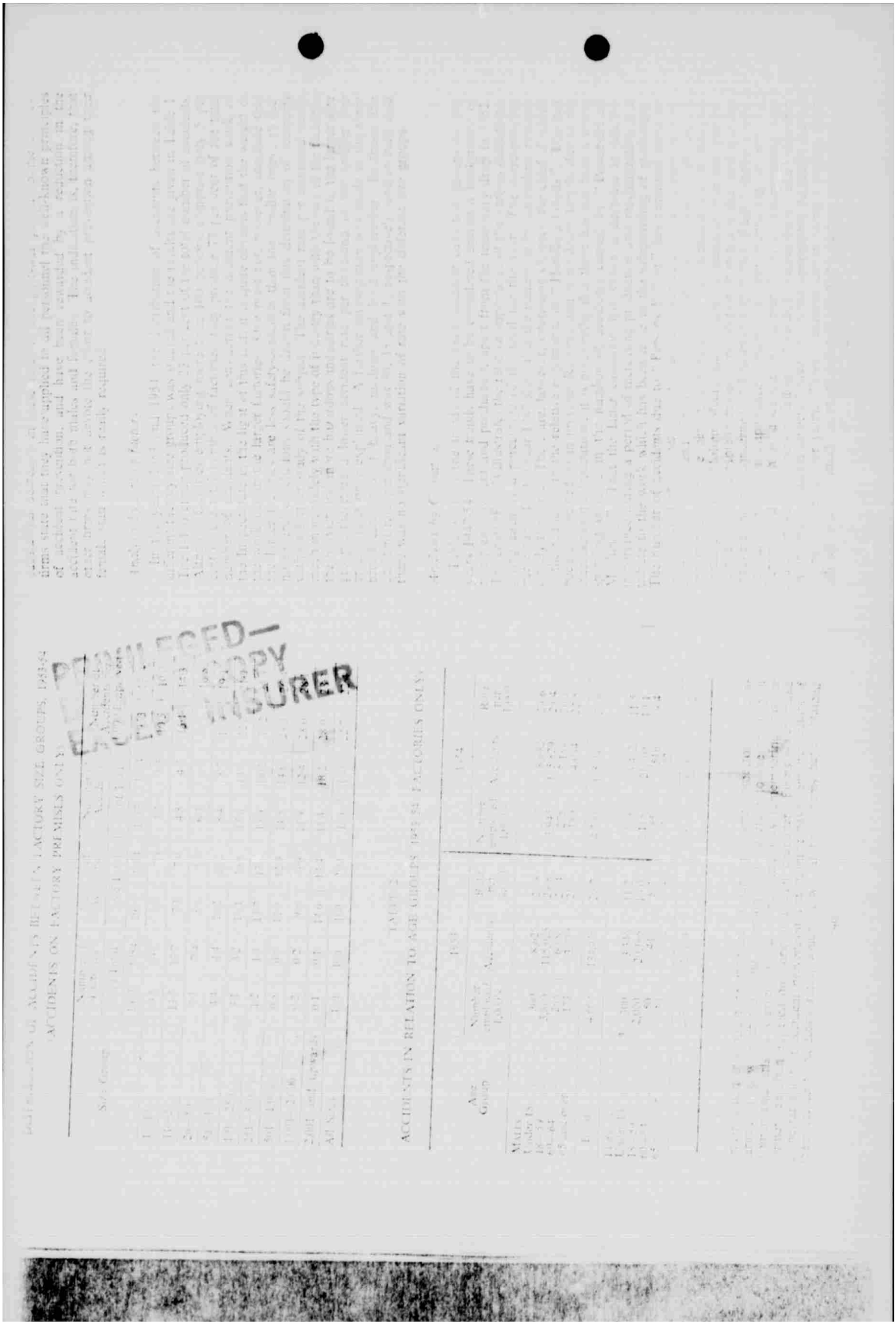


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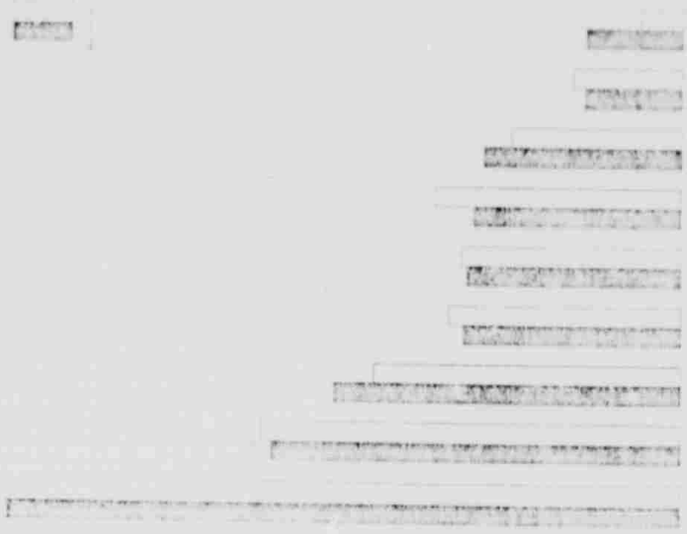




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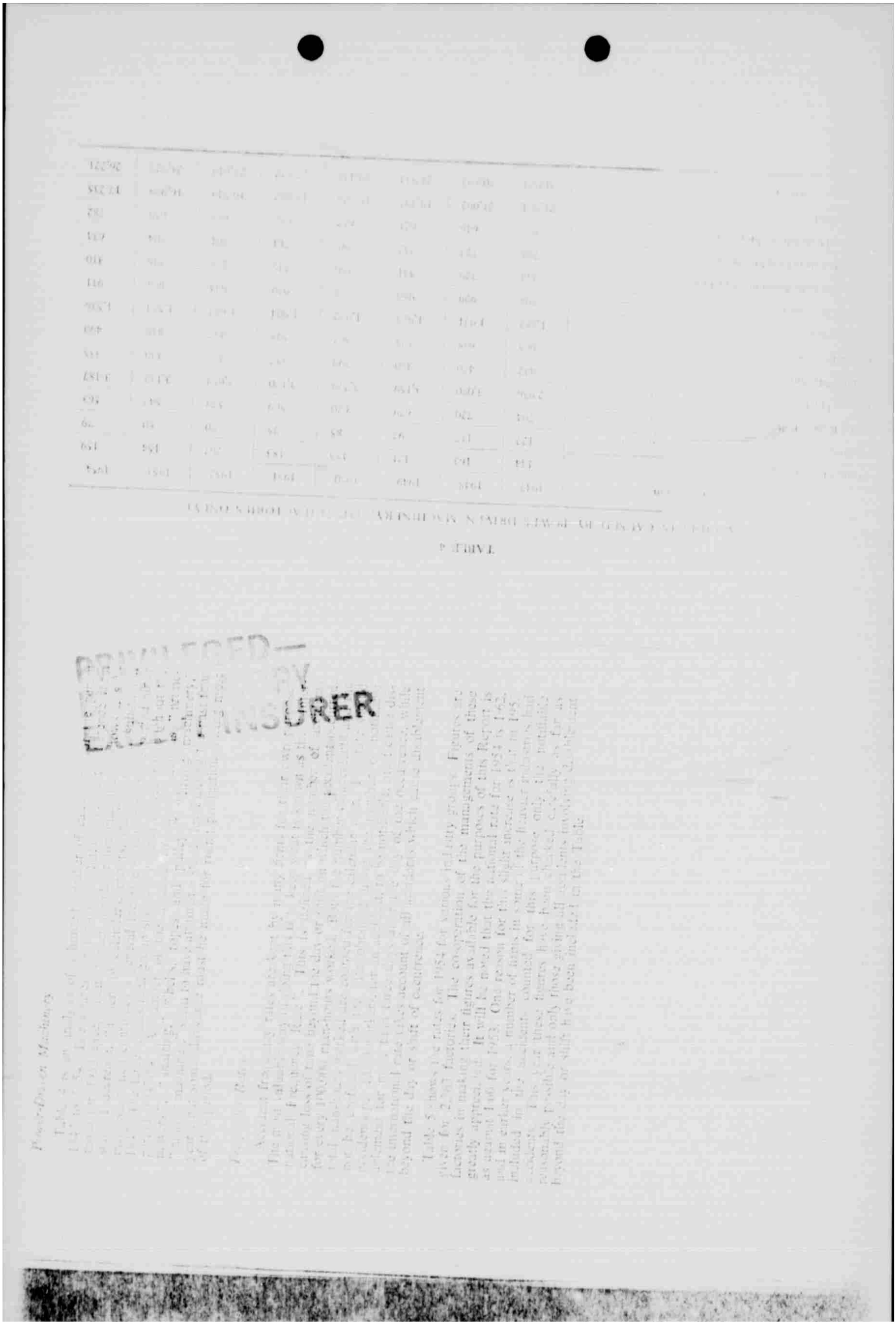


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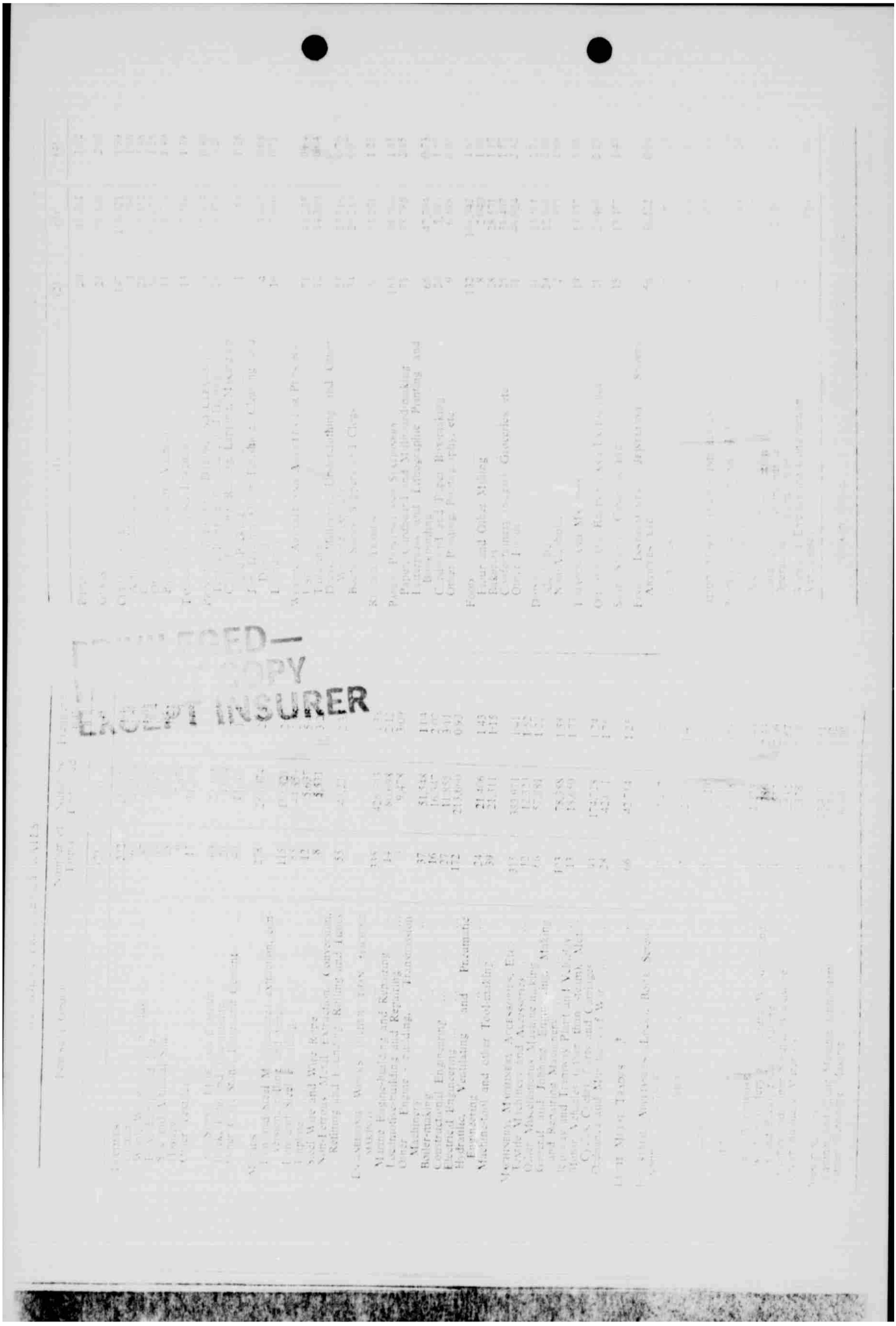


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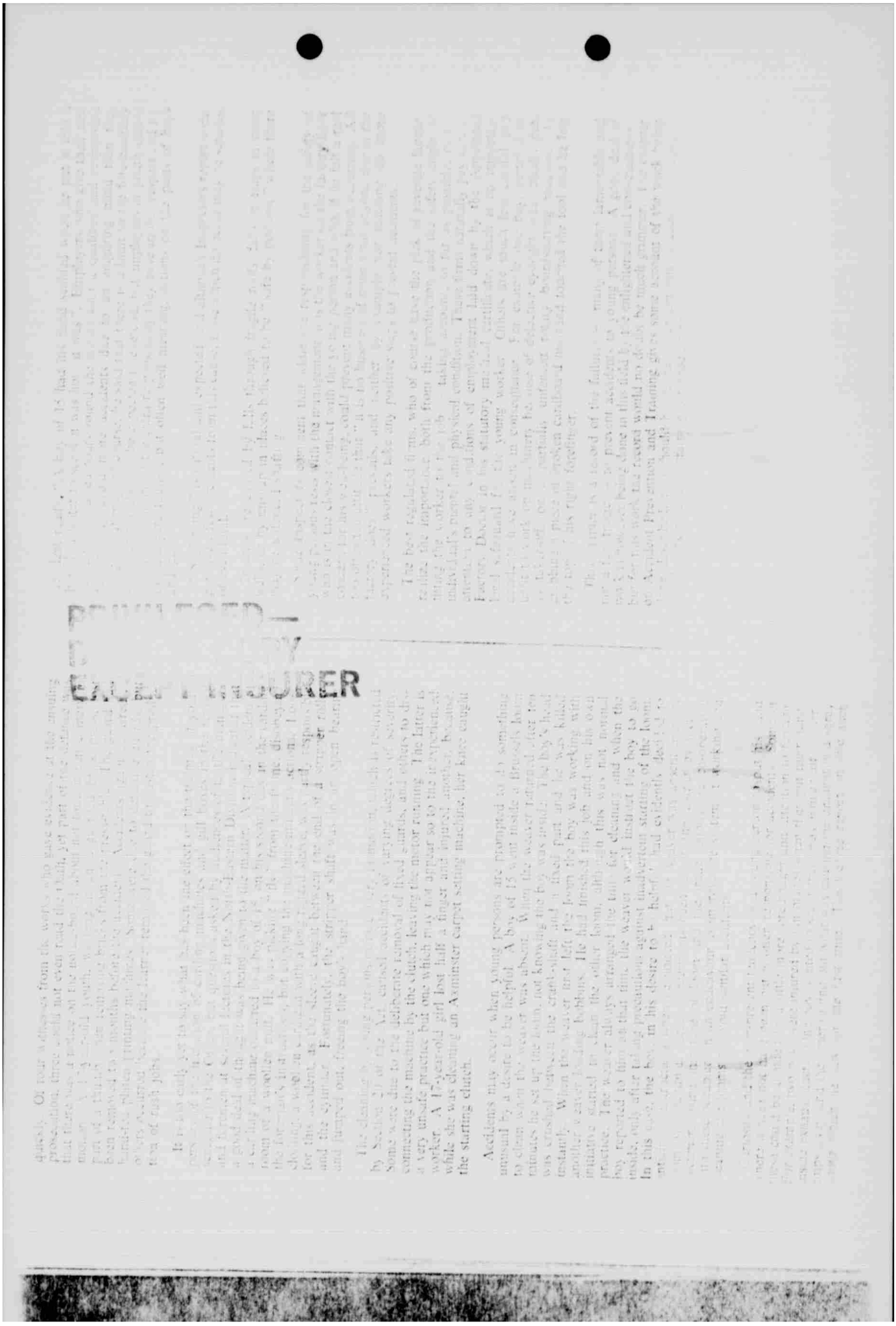
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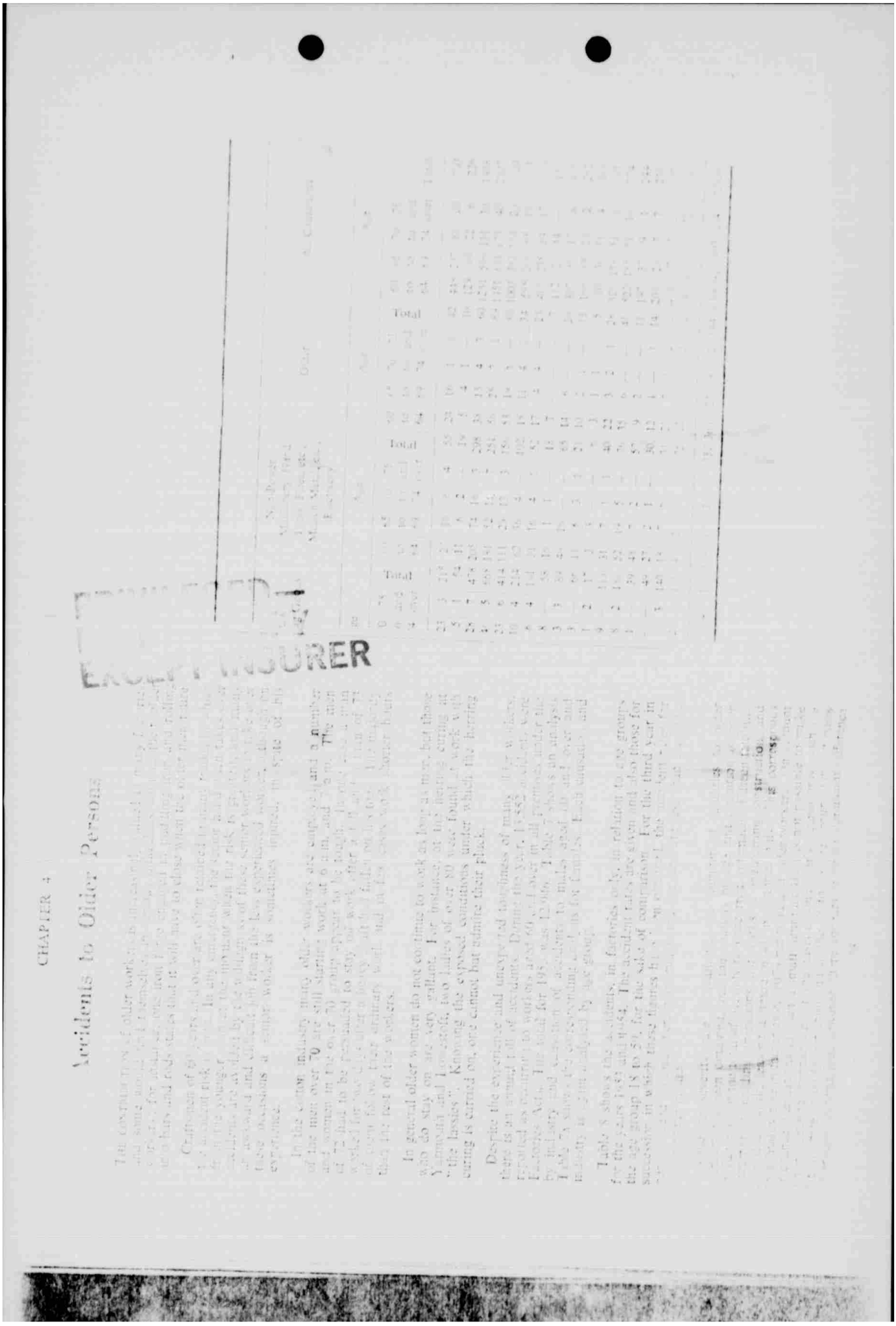
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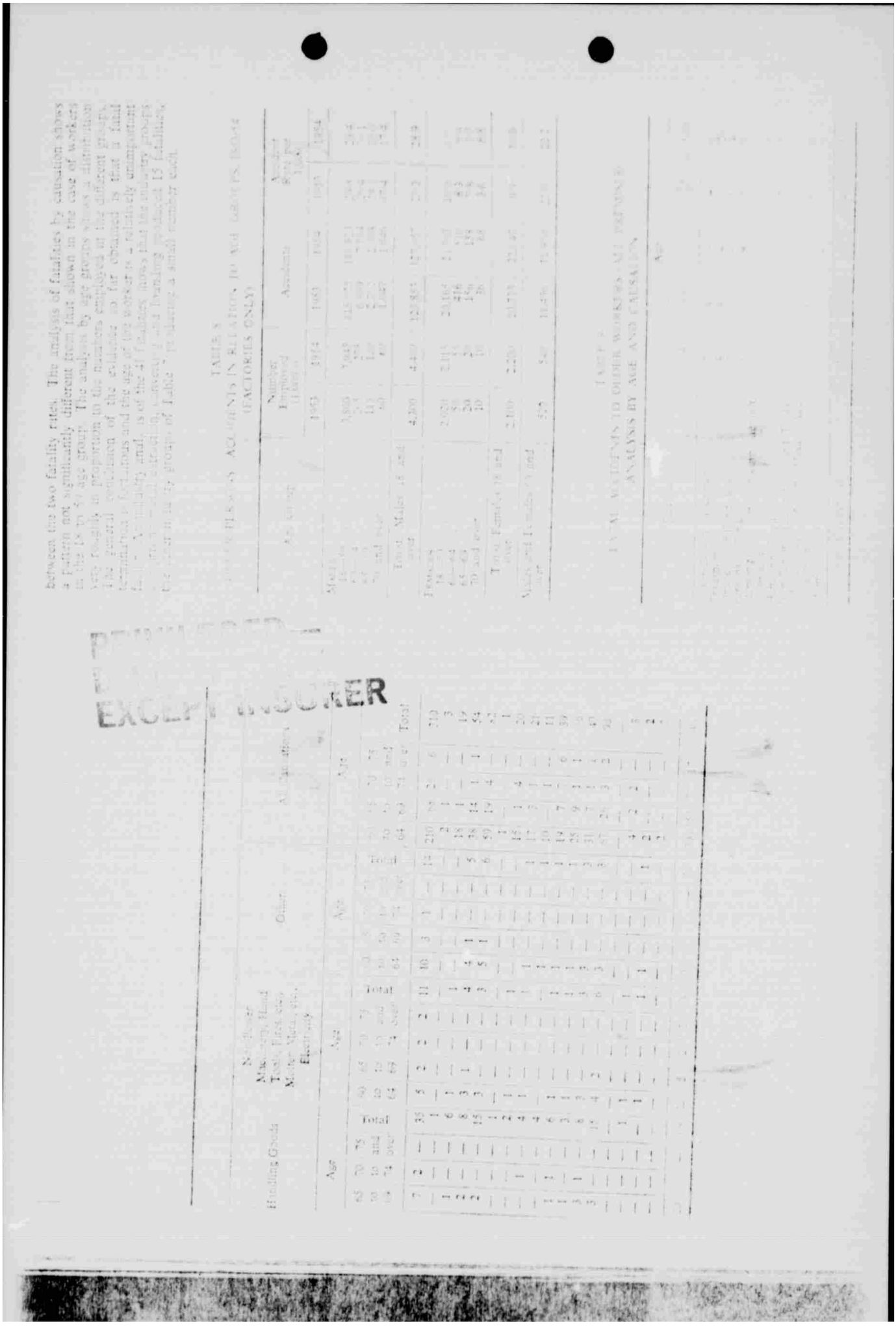
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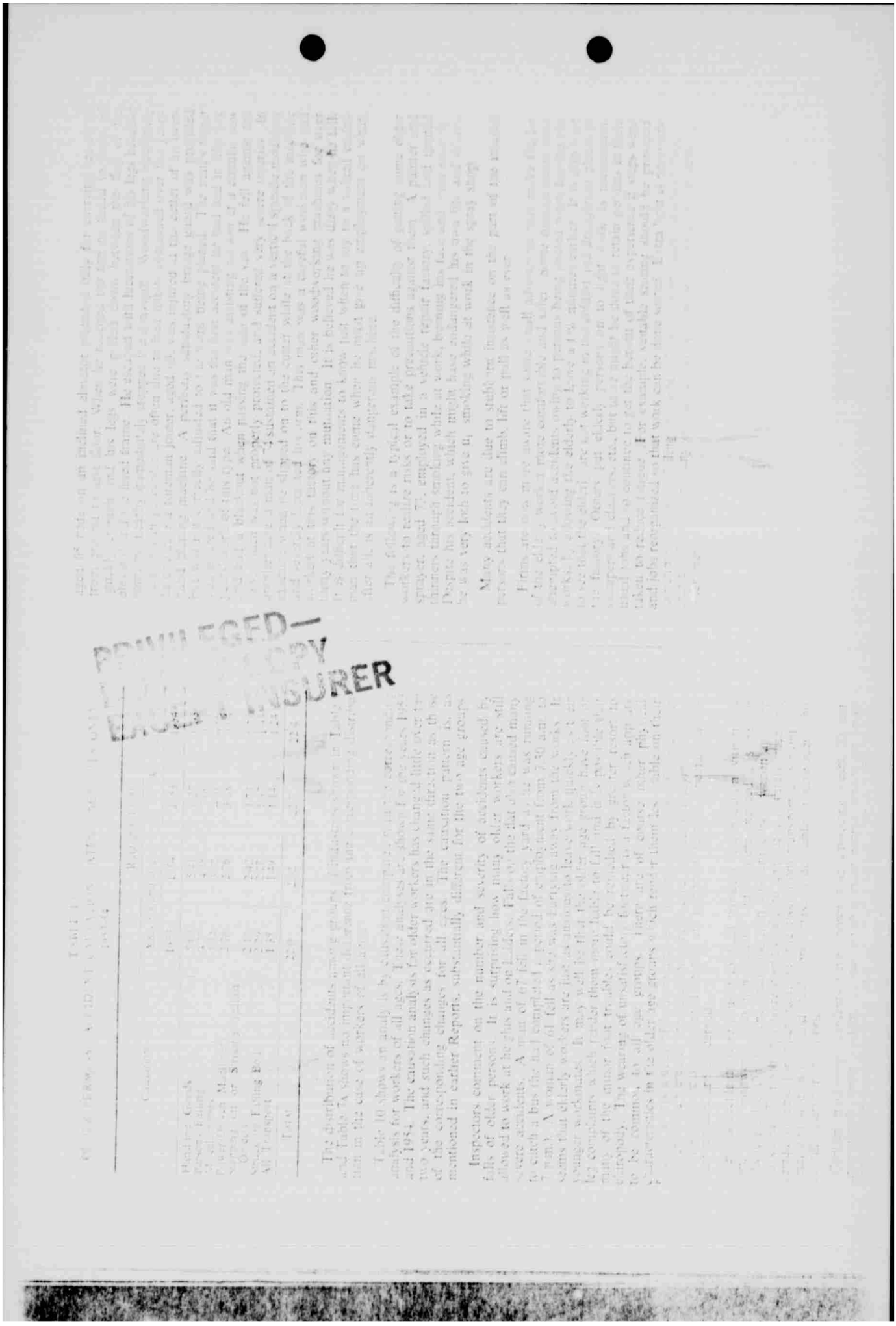
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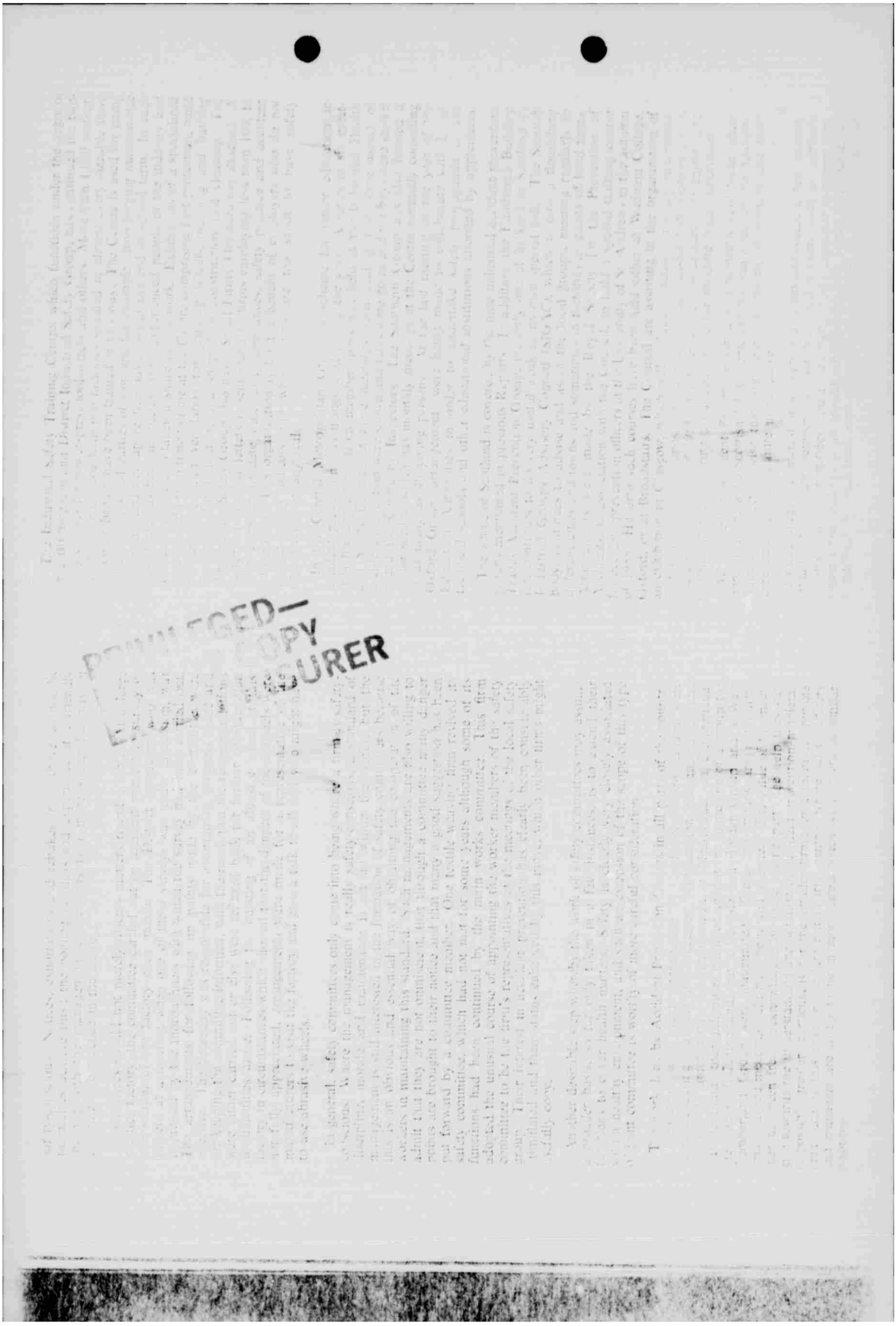
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CHAPTER 5

Accident Prevention Organization

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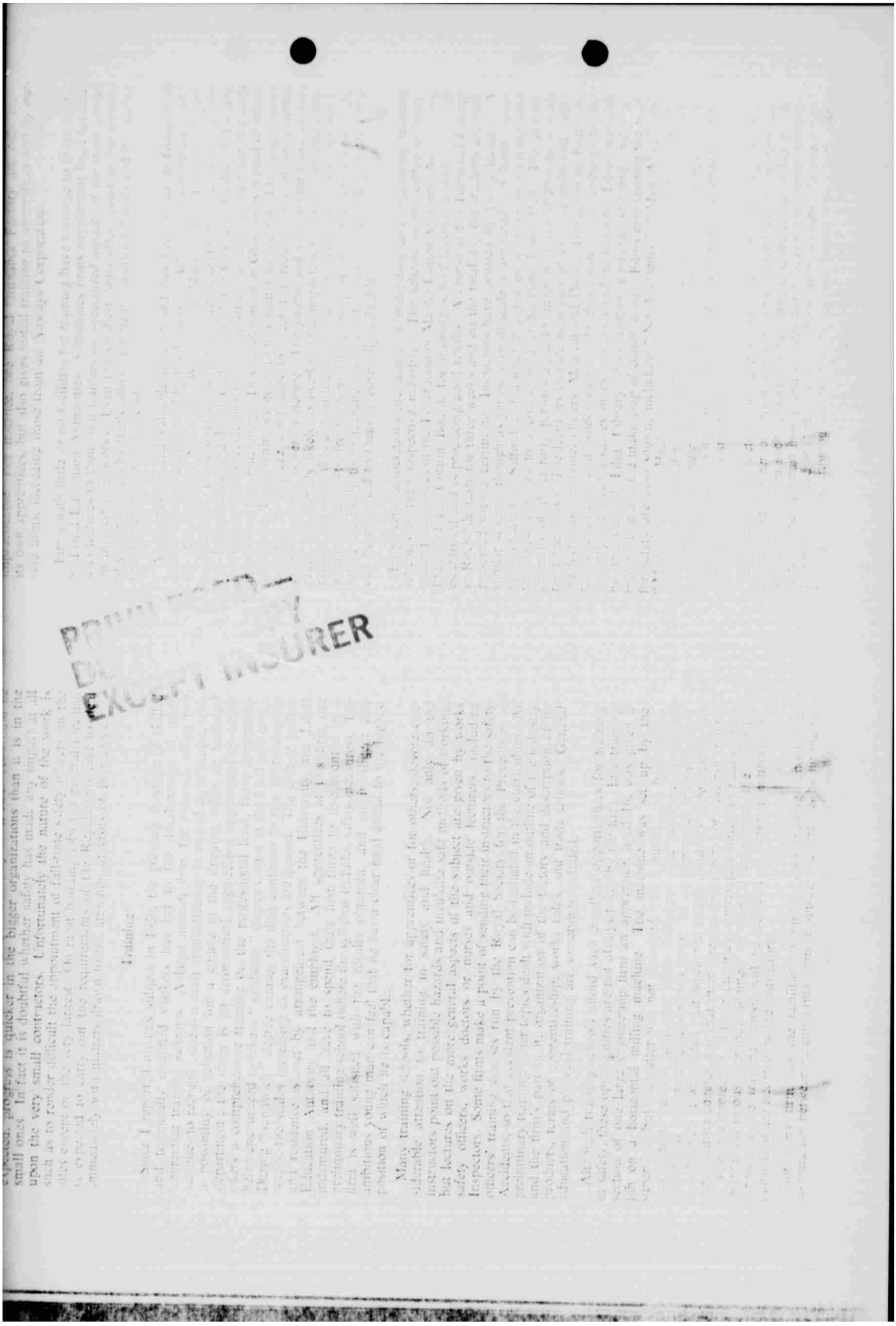
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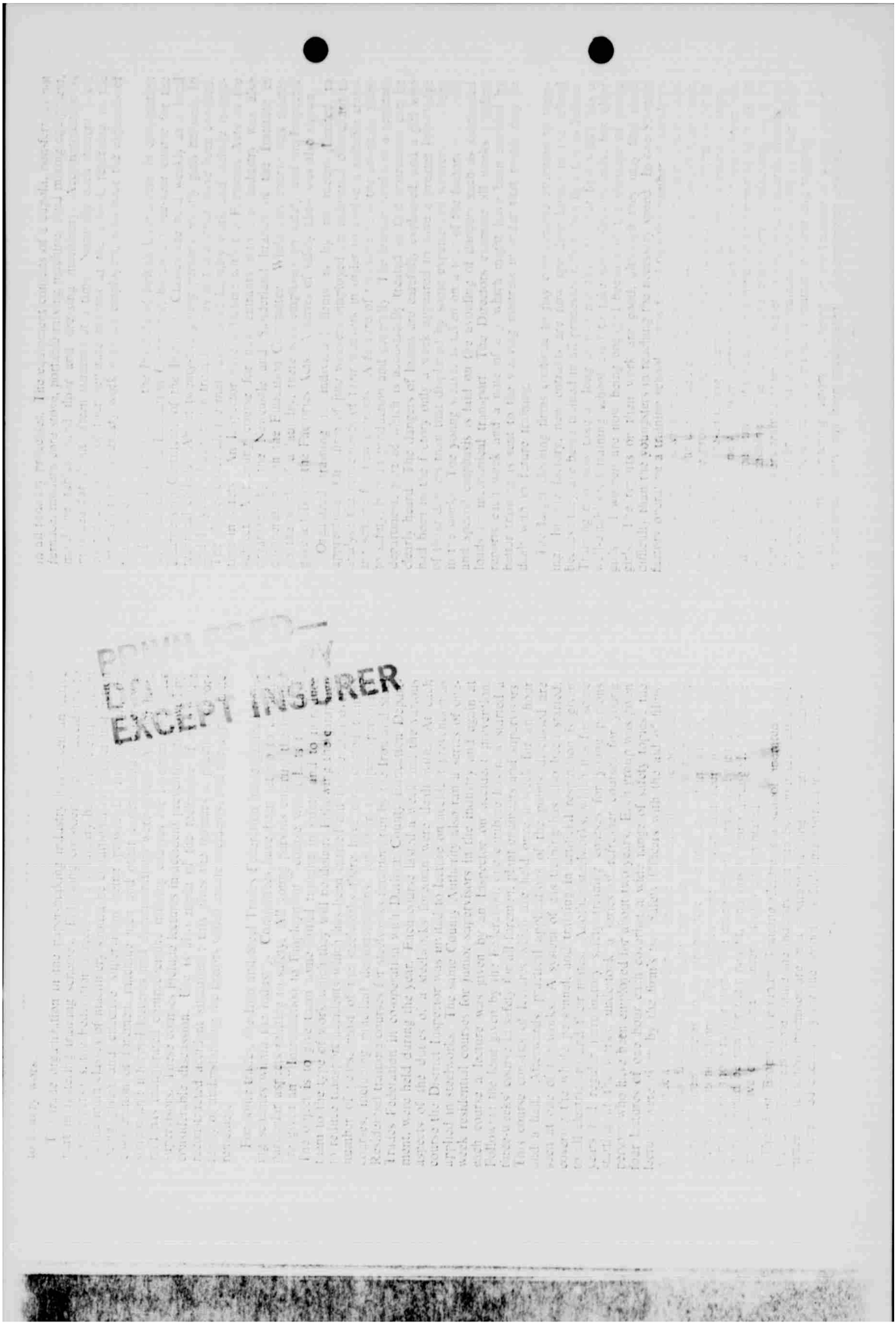
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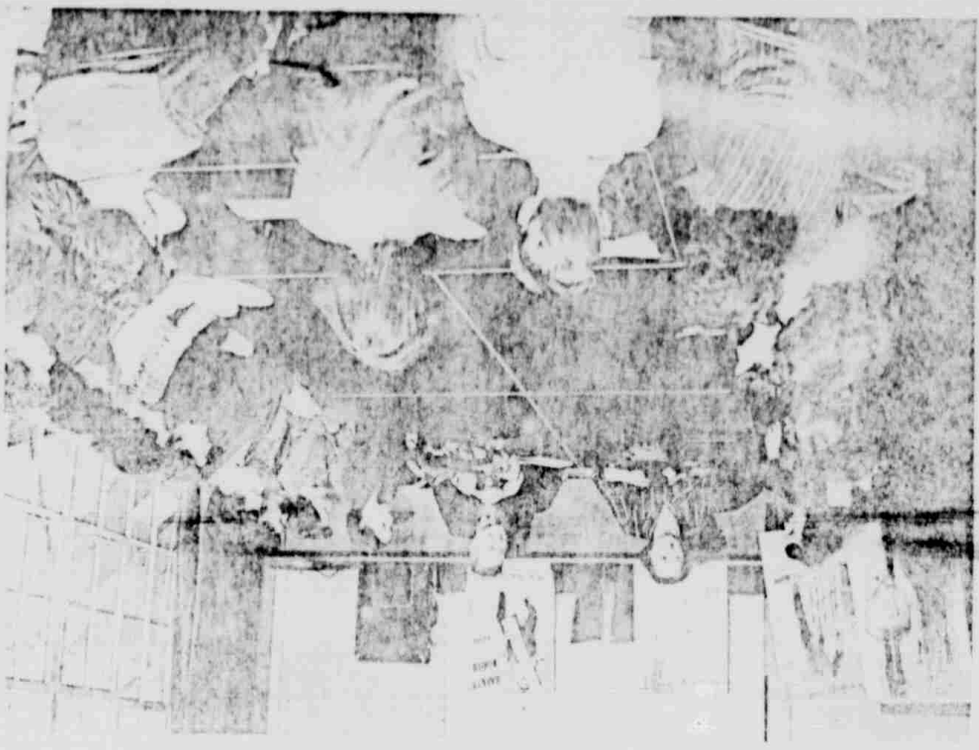
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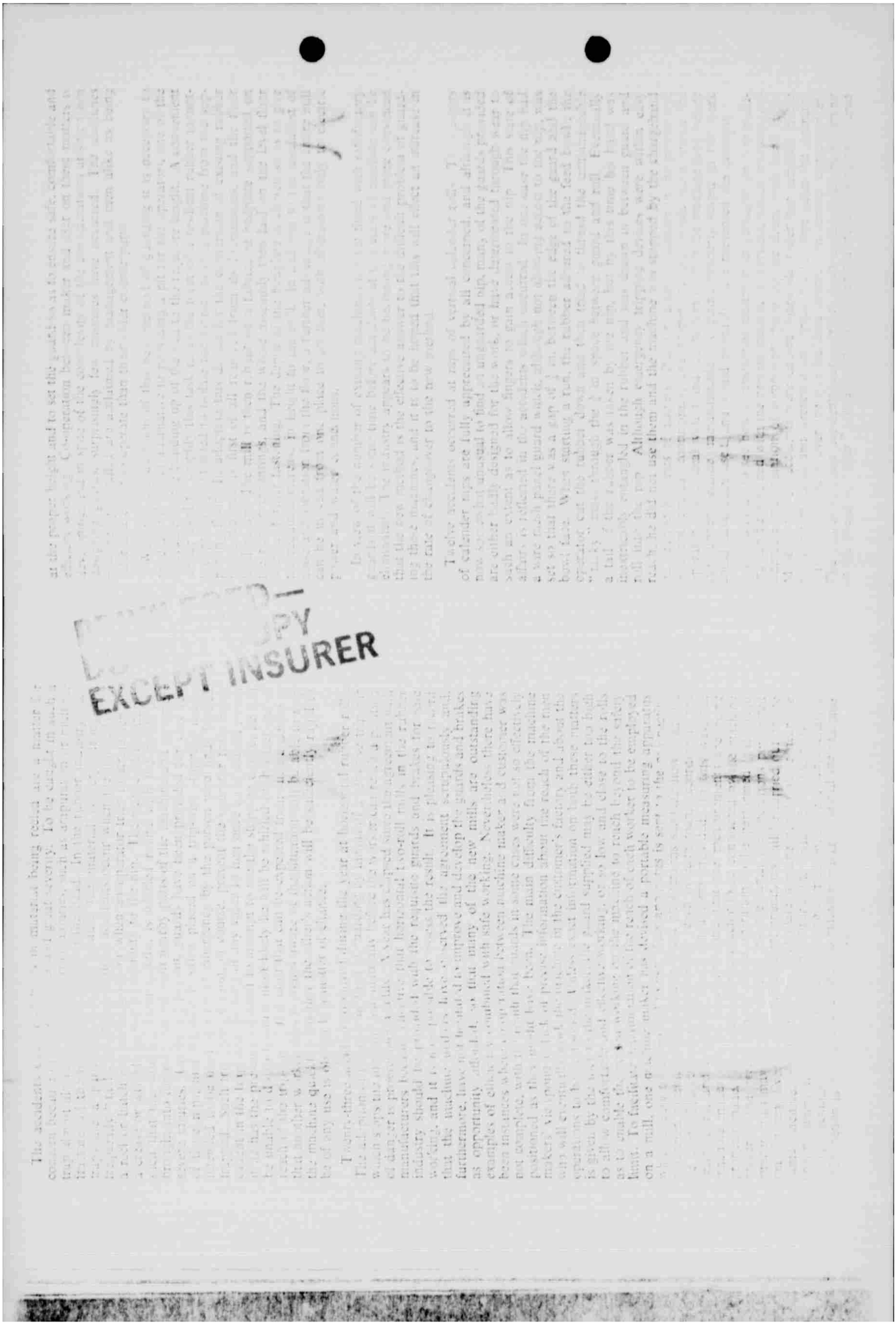


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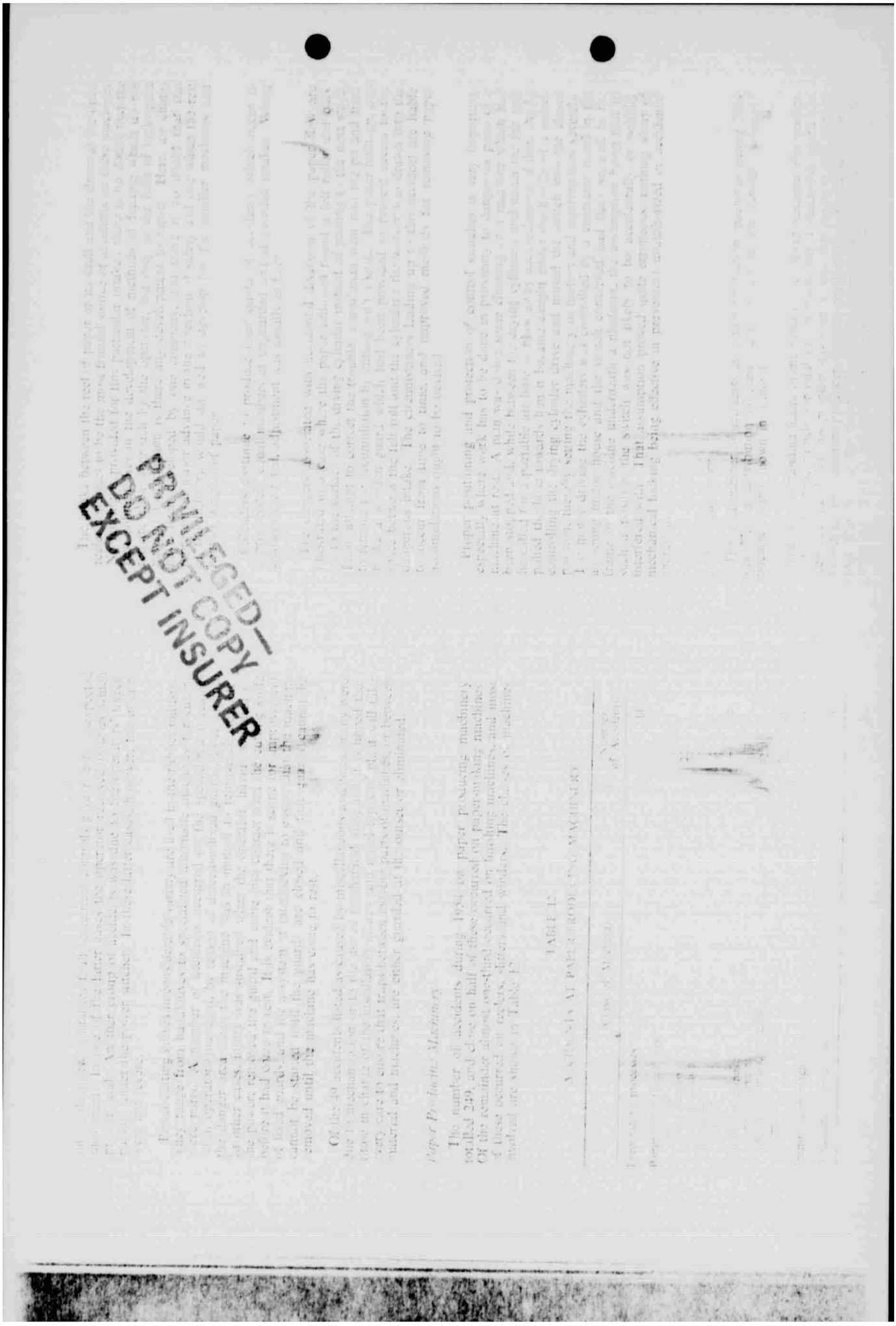


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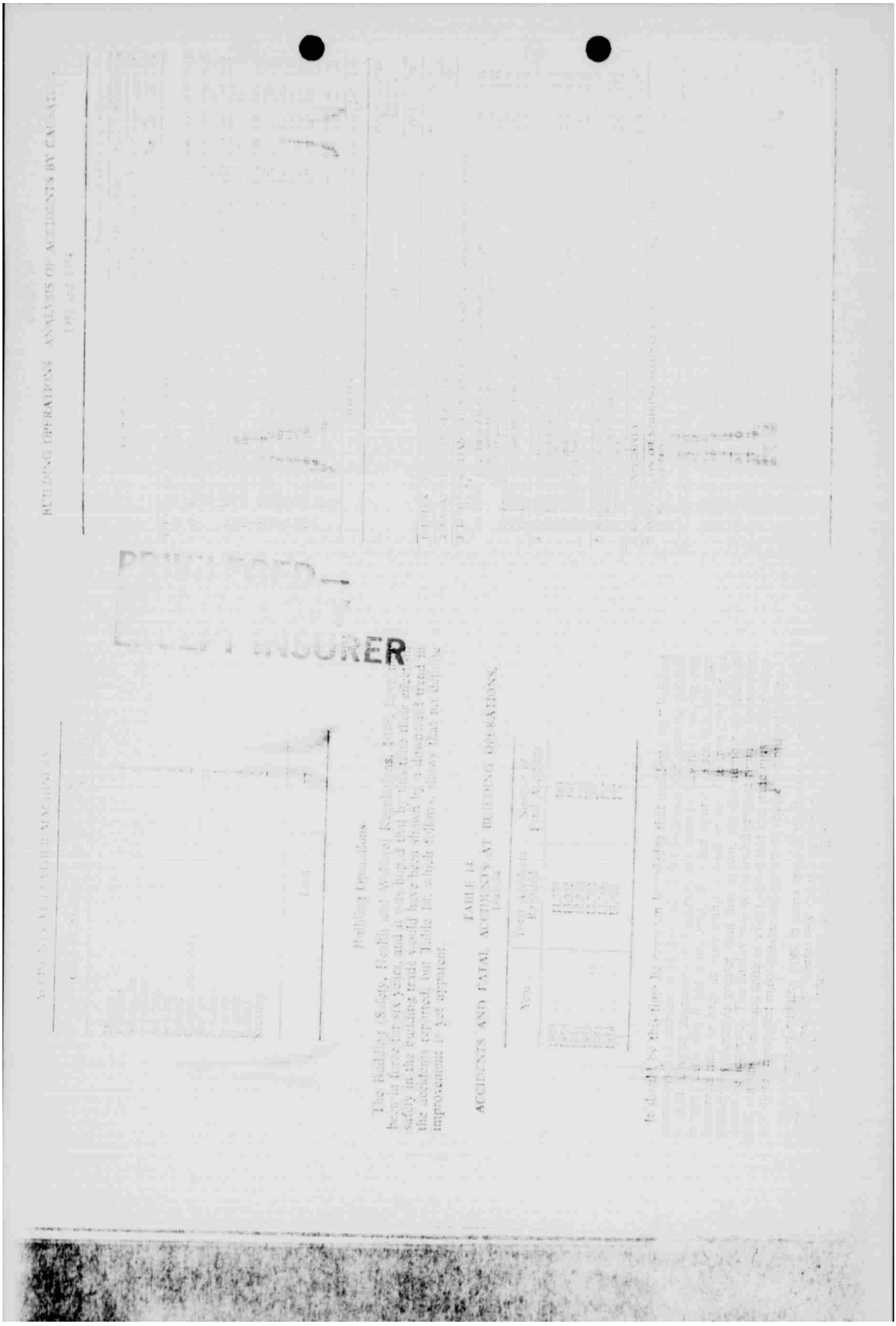

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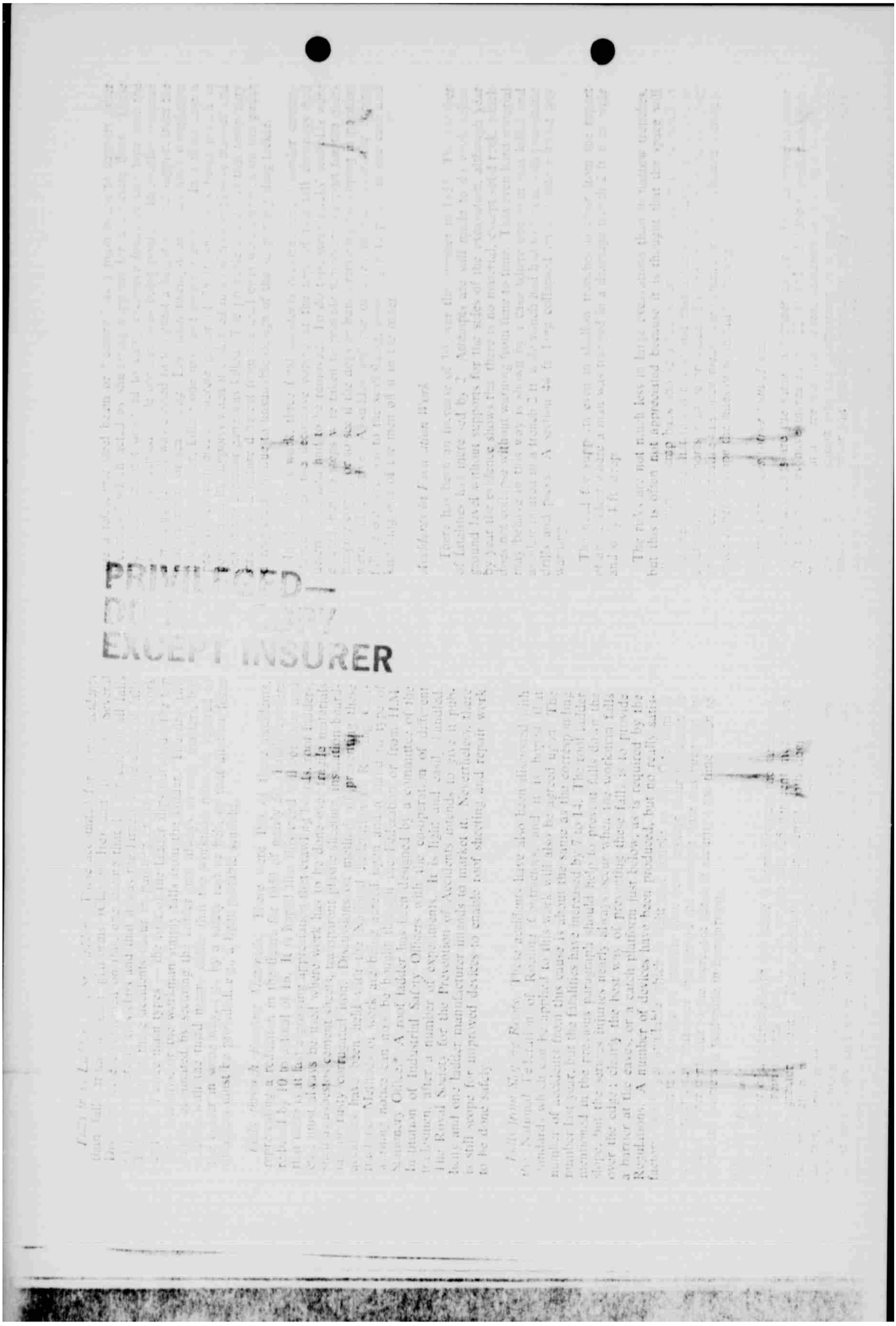
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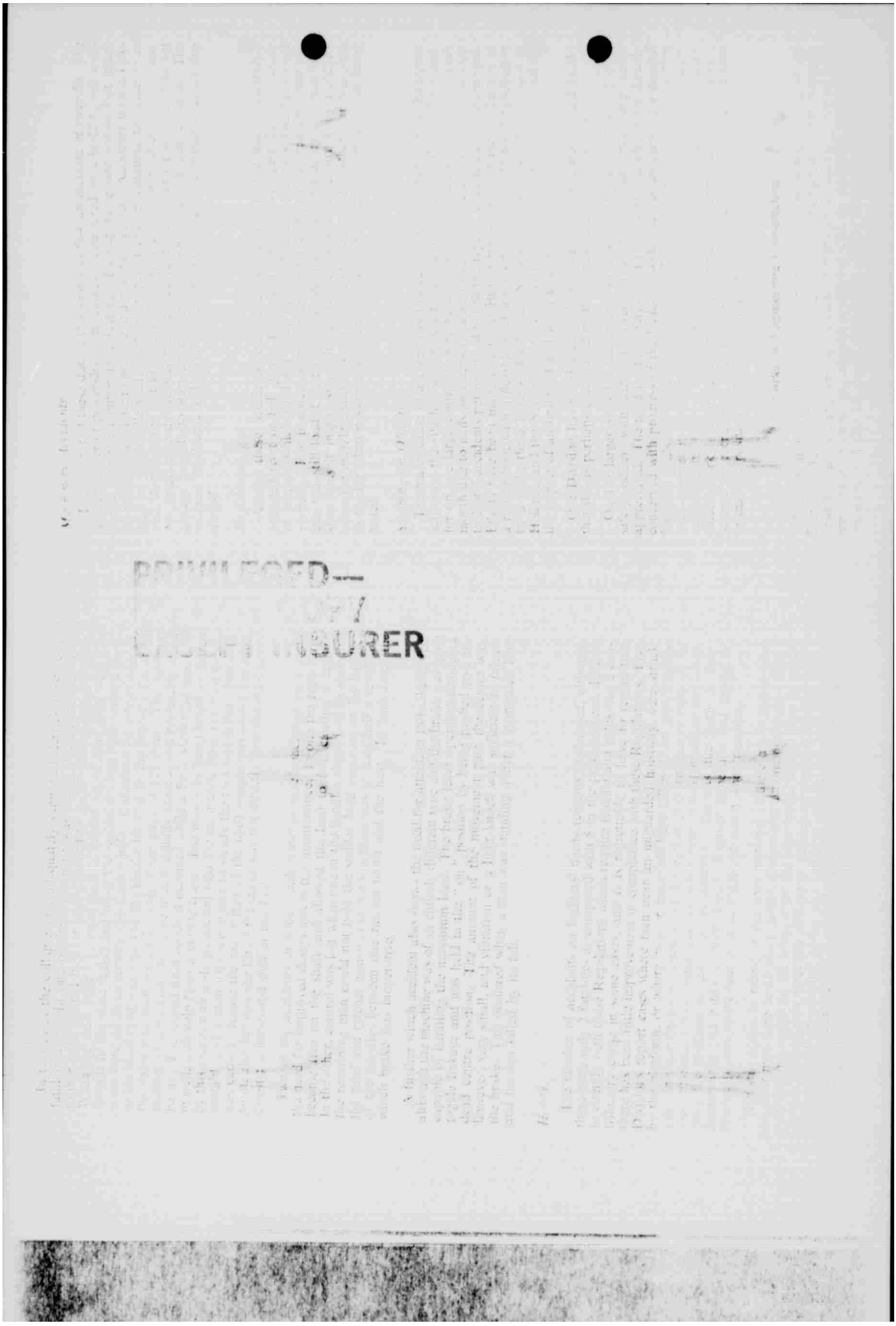


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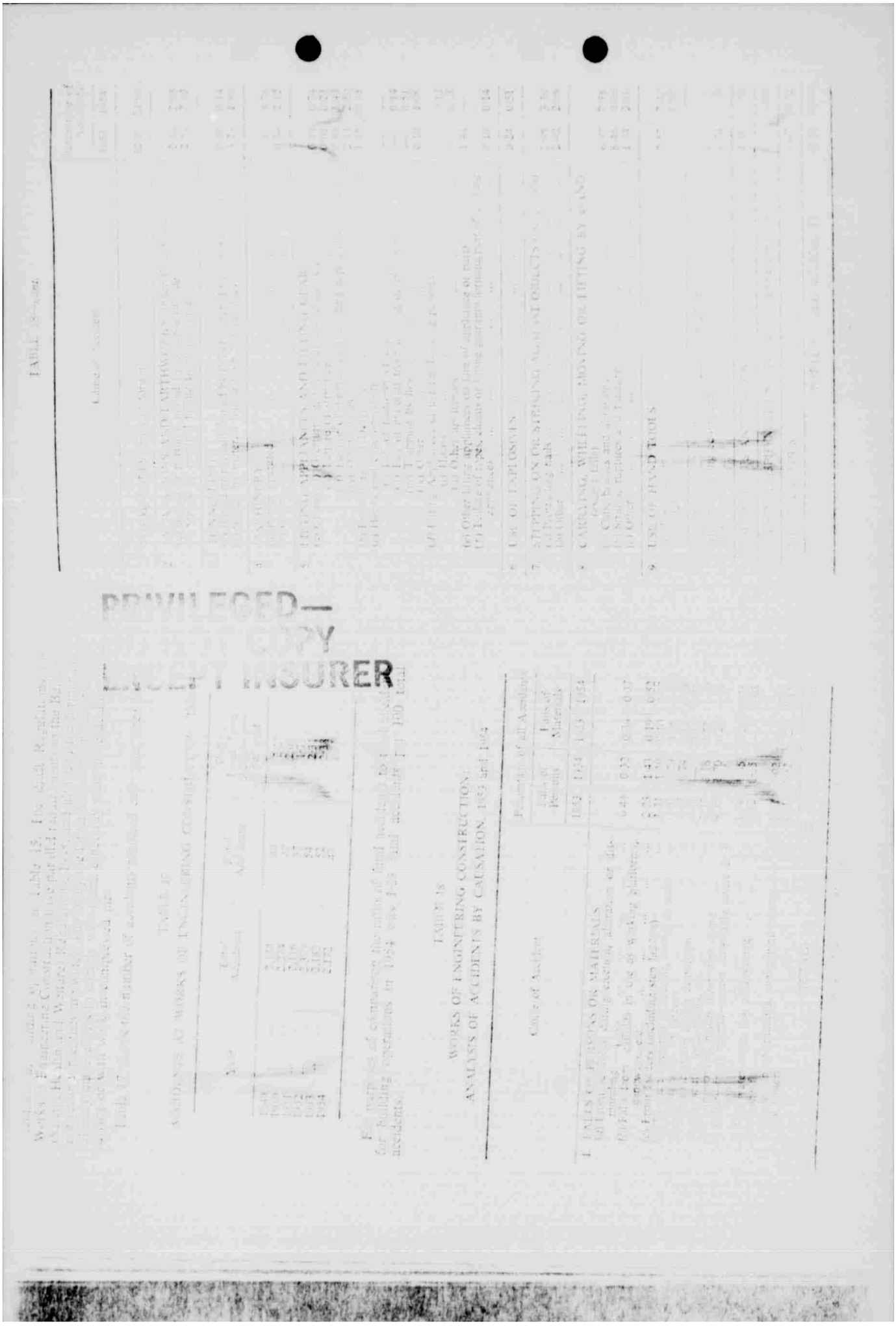
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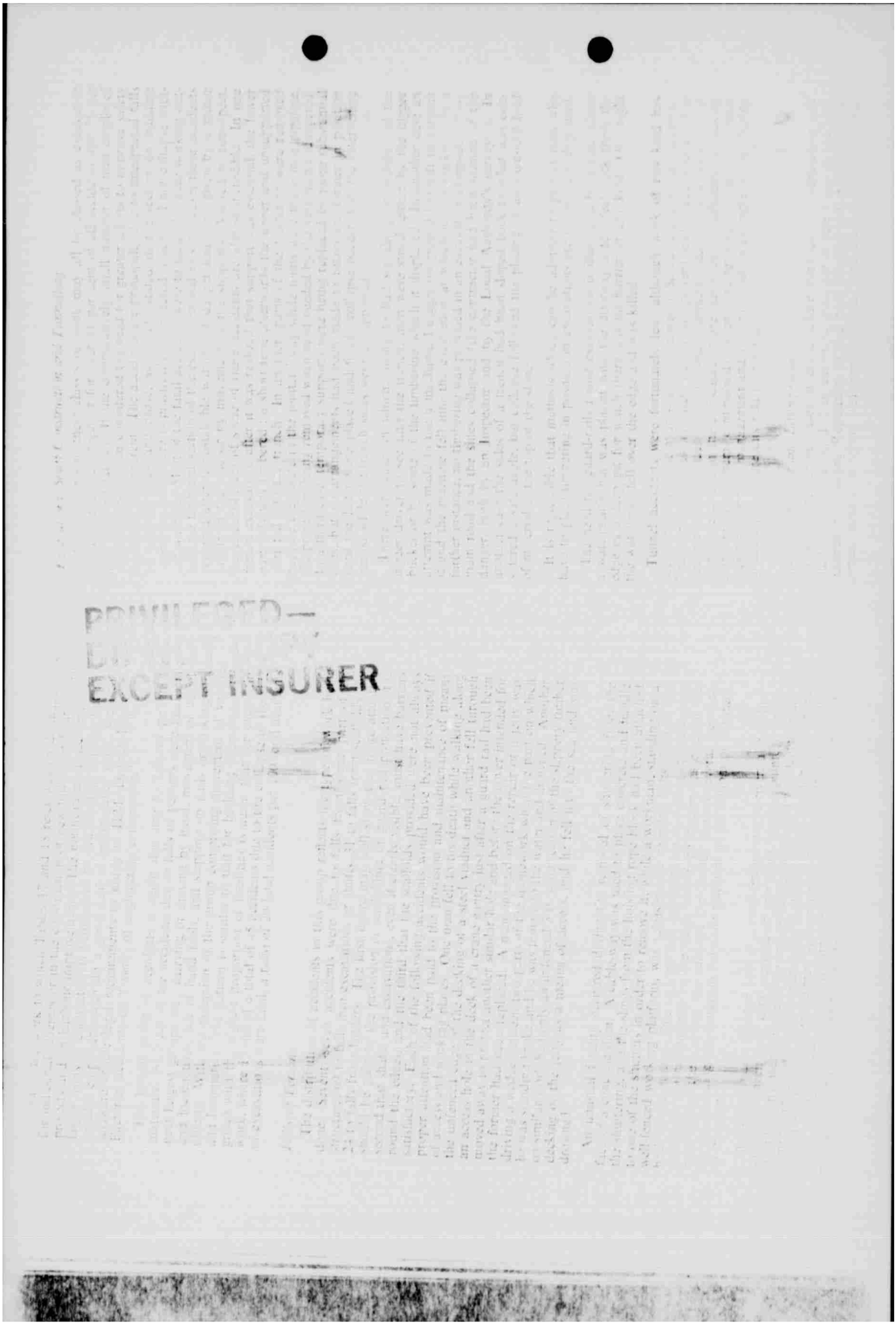
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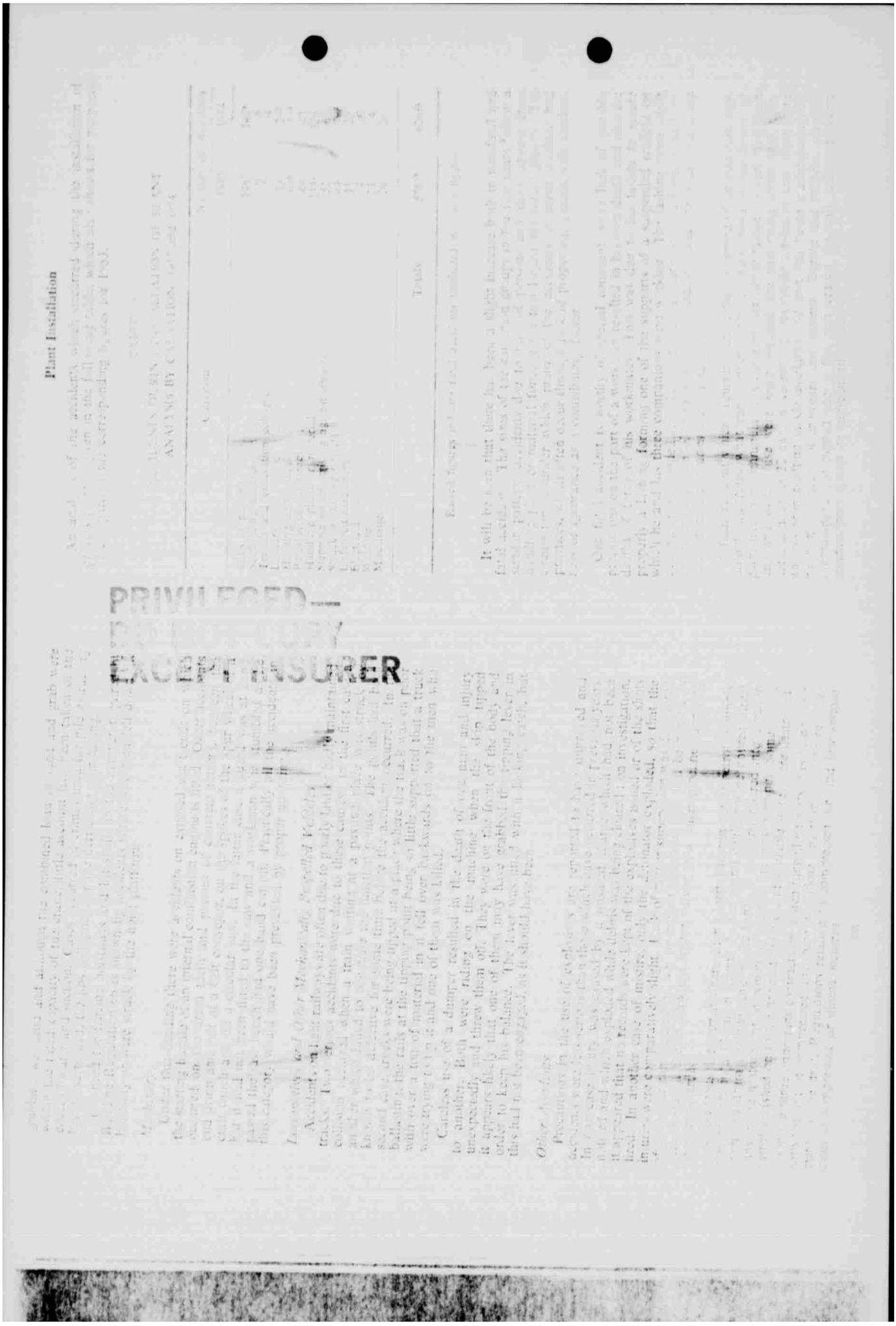
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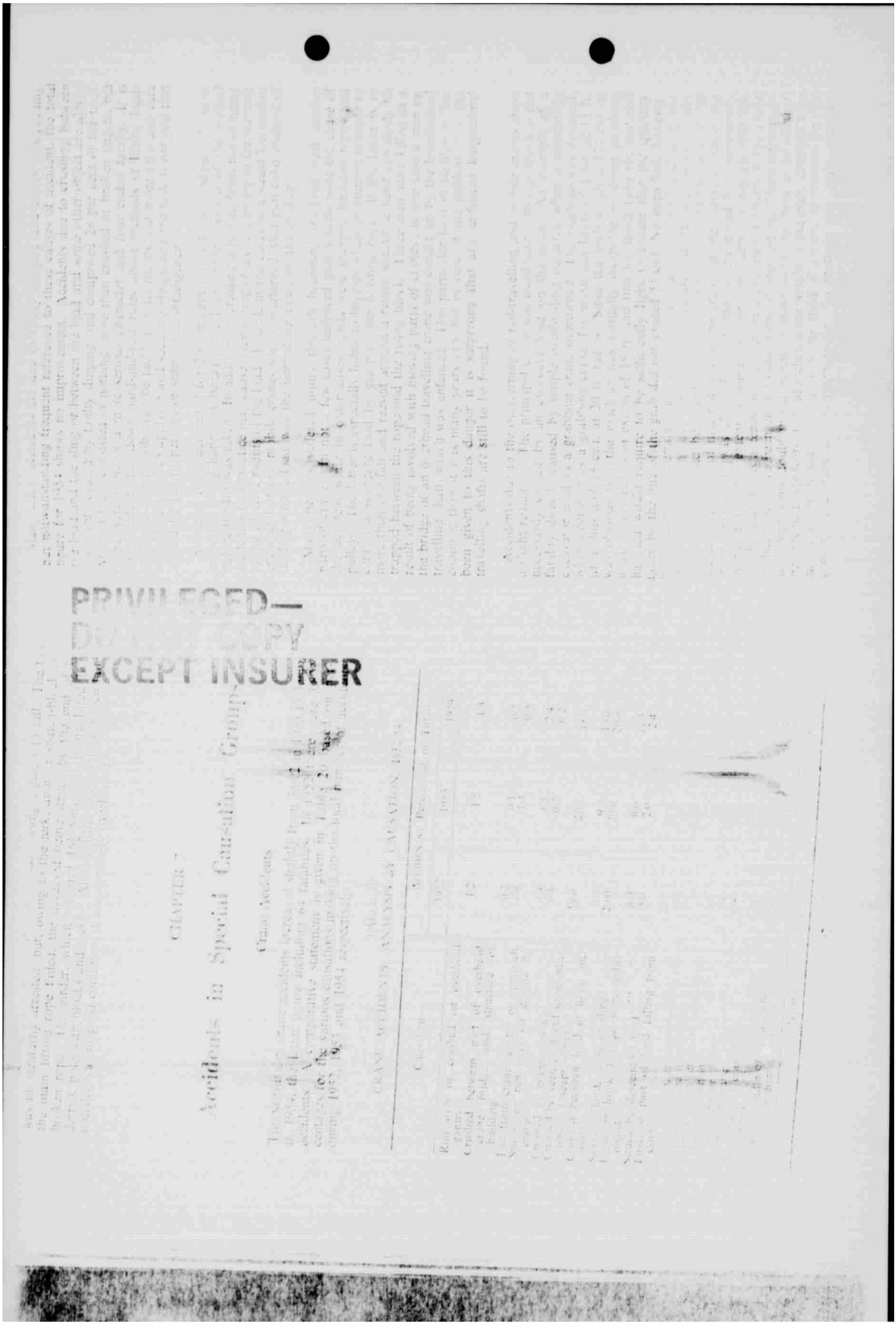
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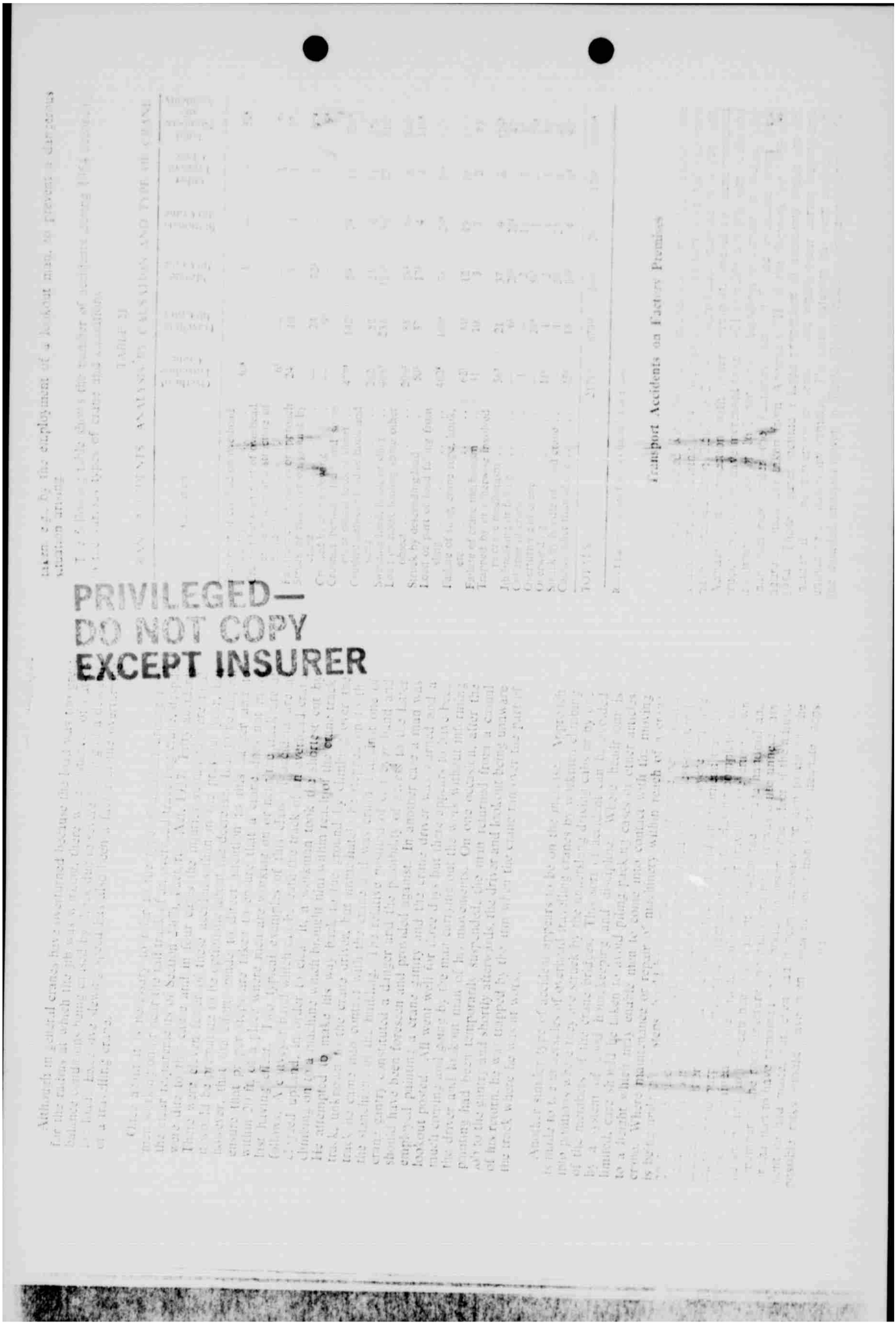
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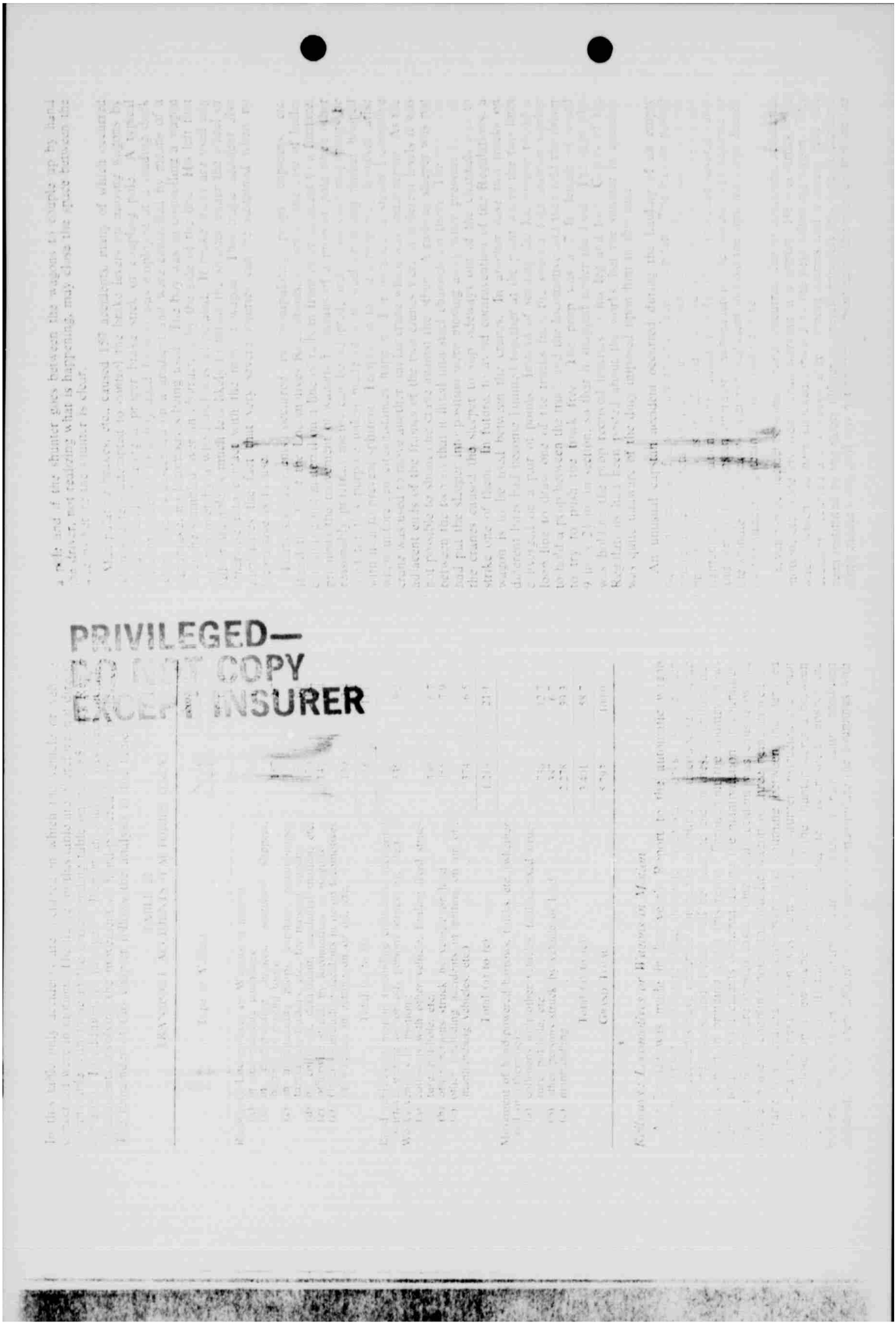

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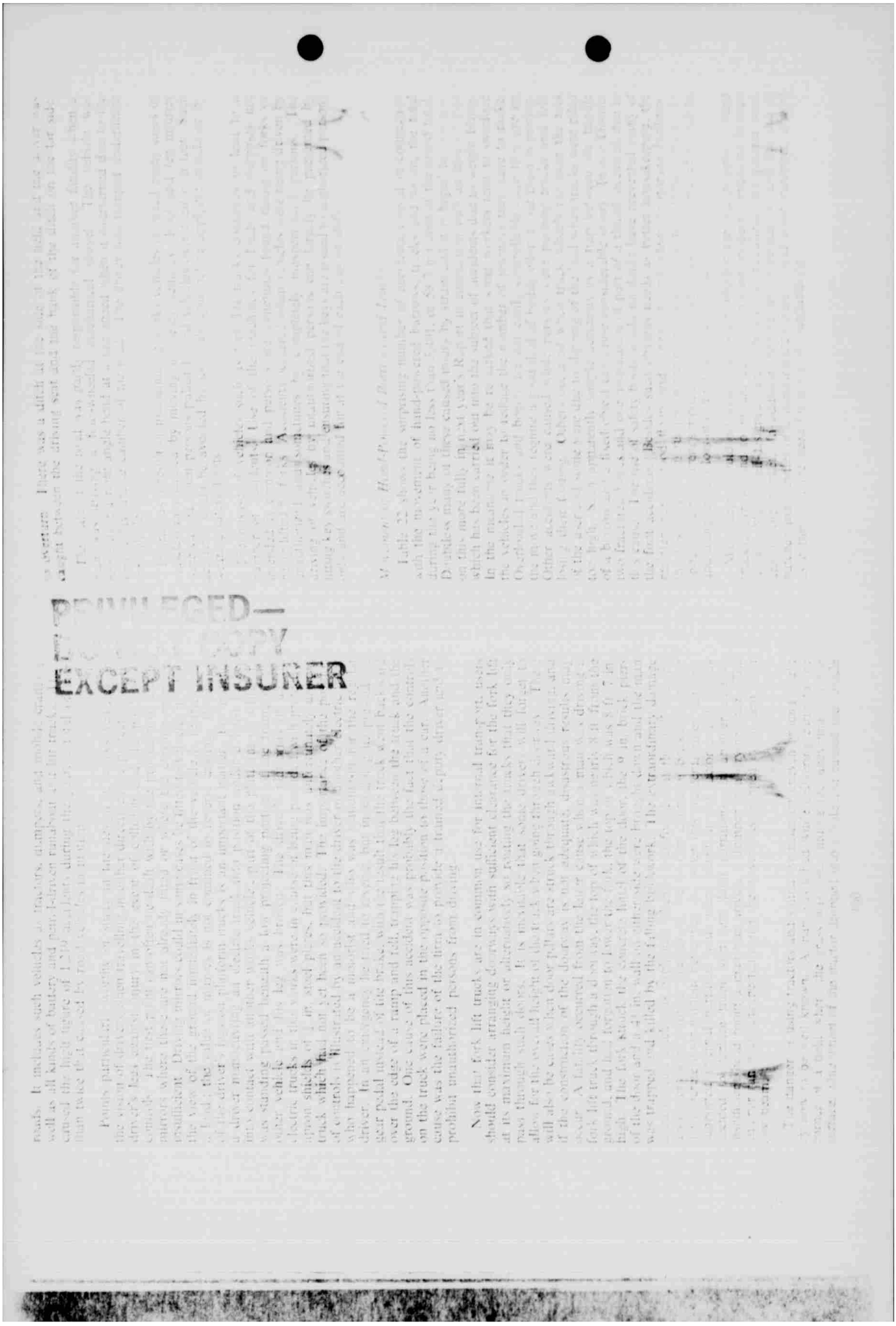


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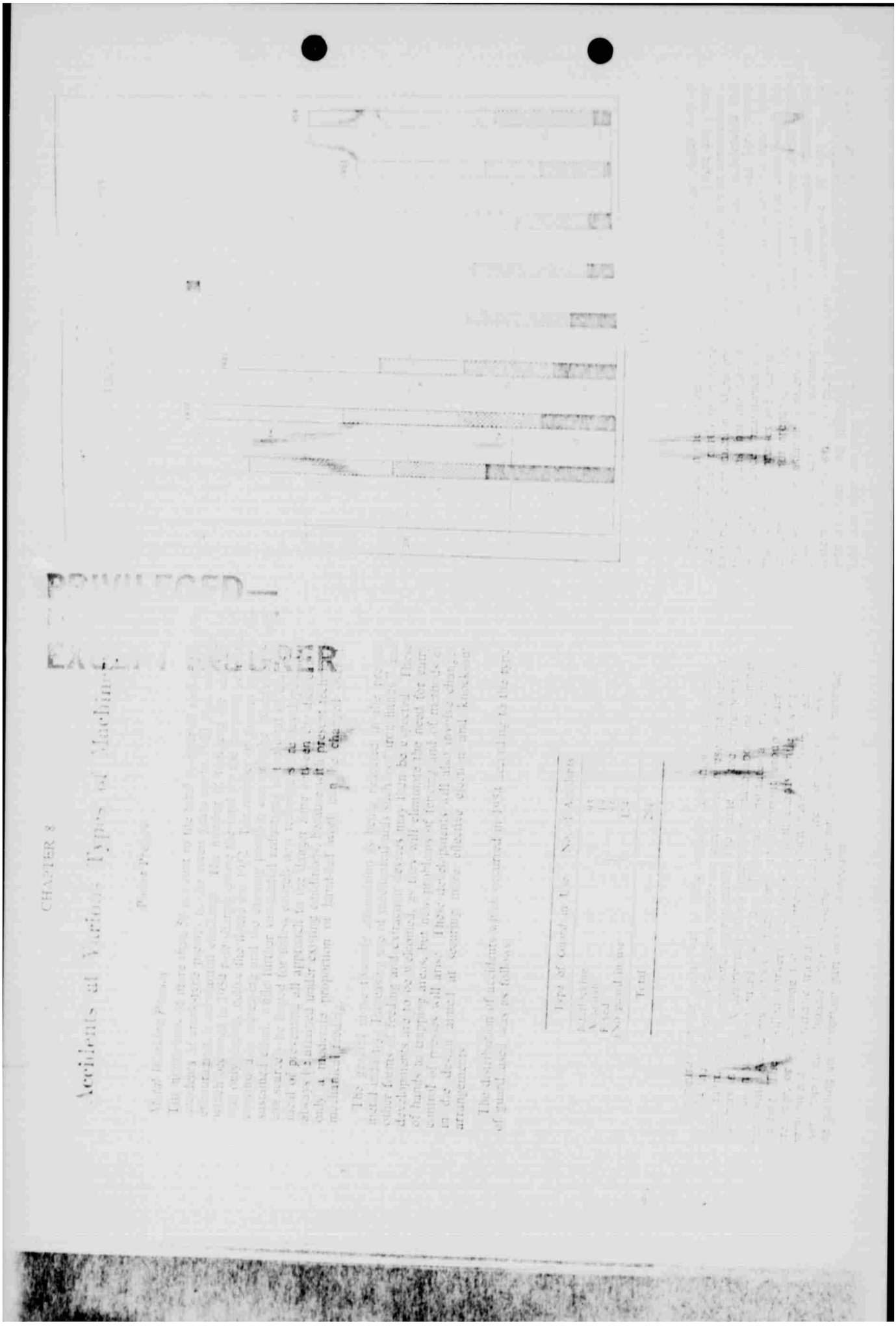
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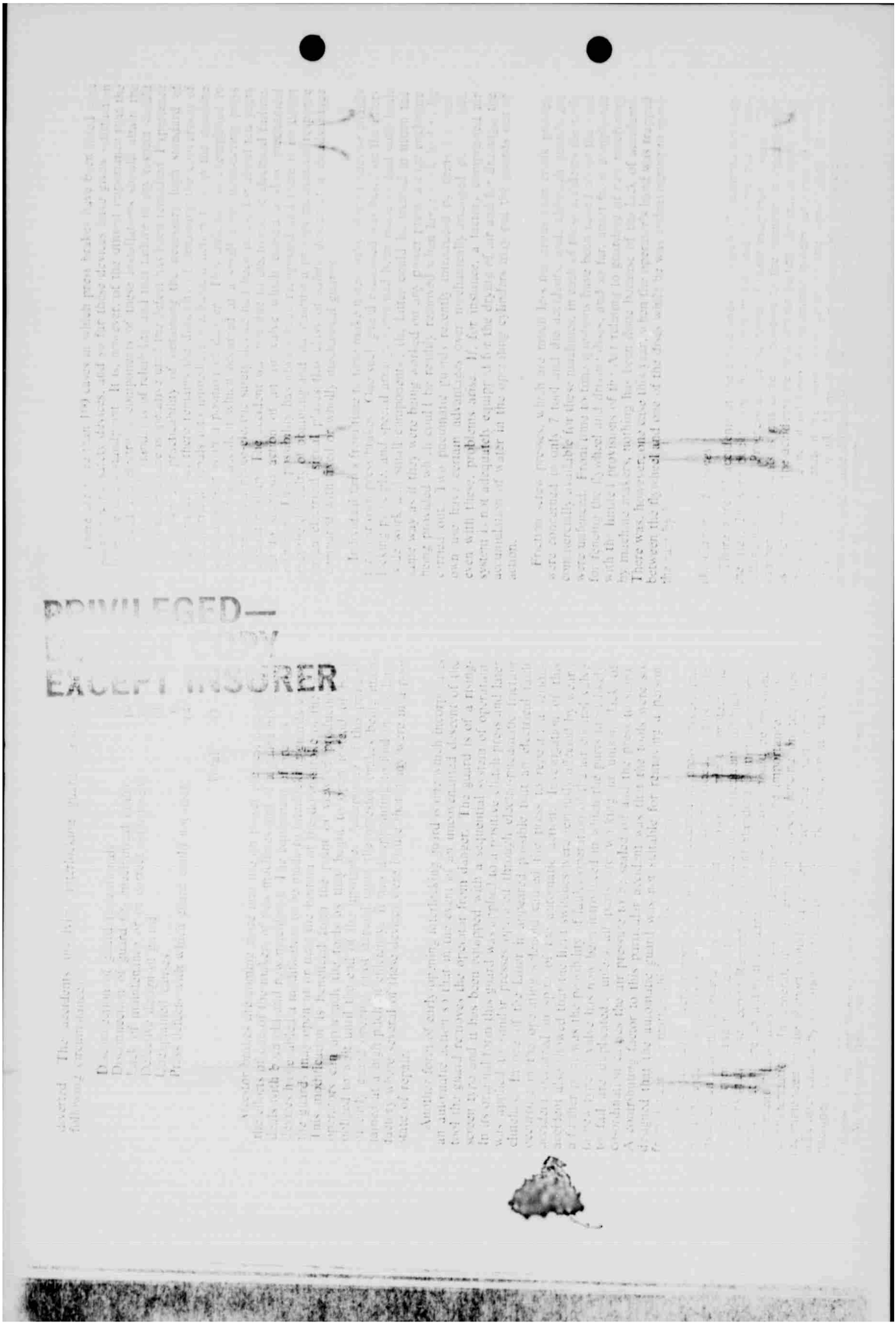


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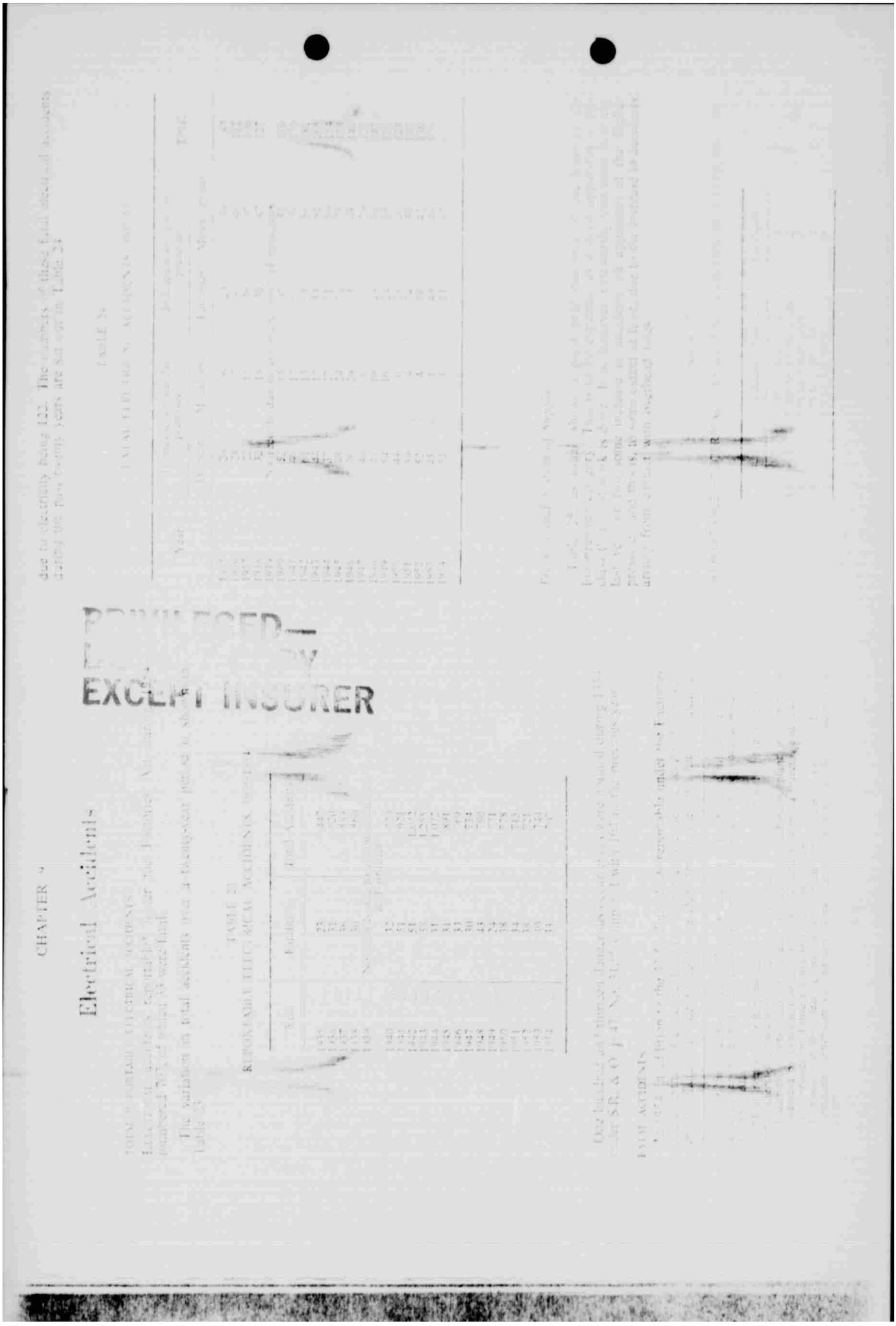
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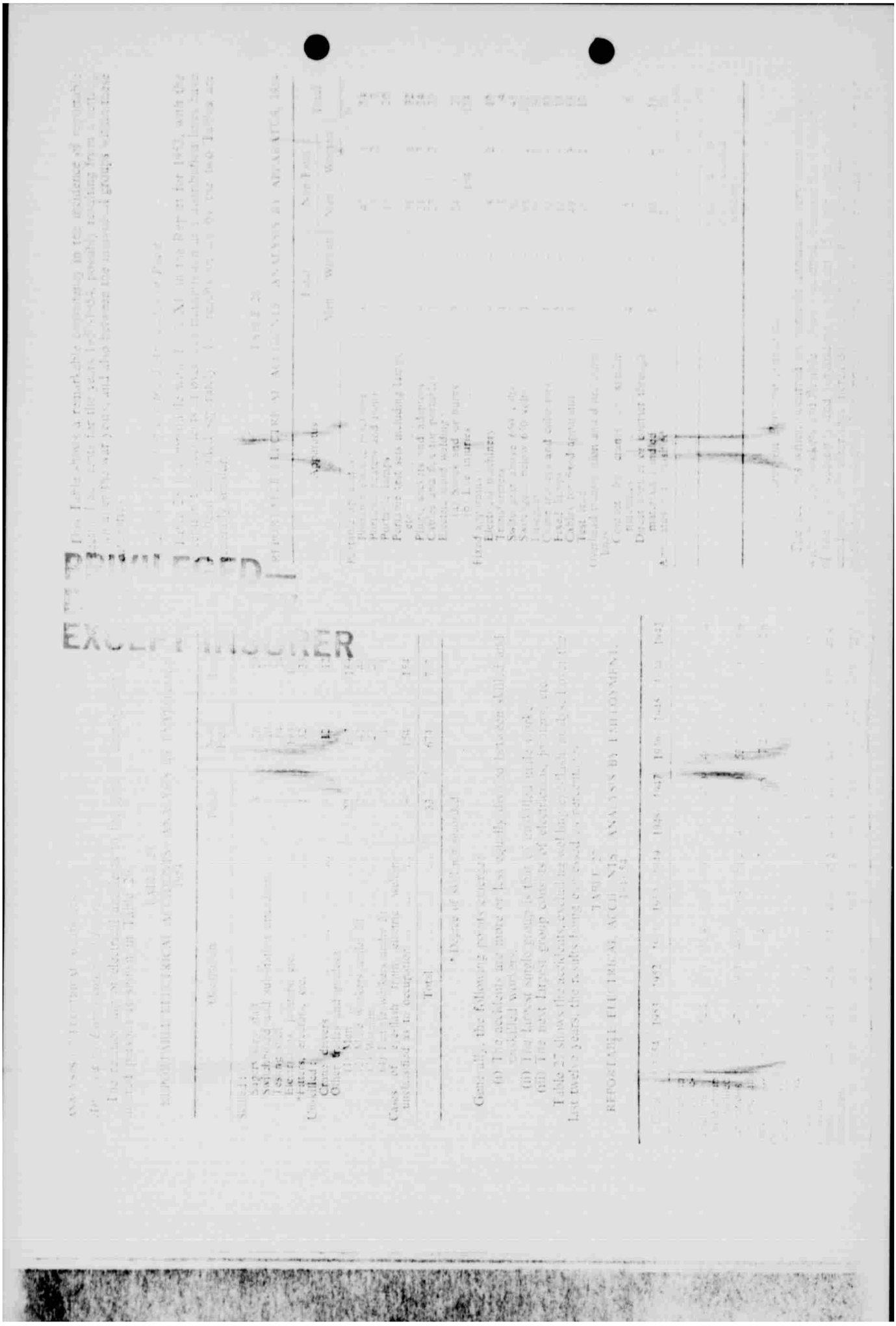
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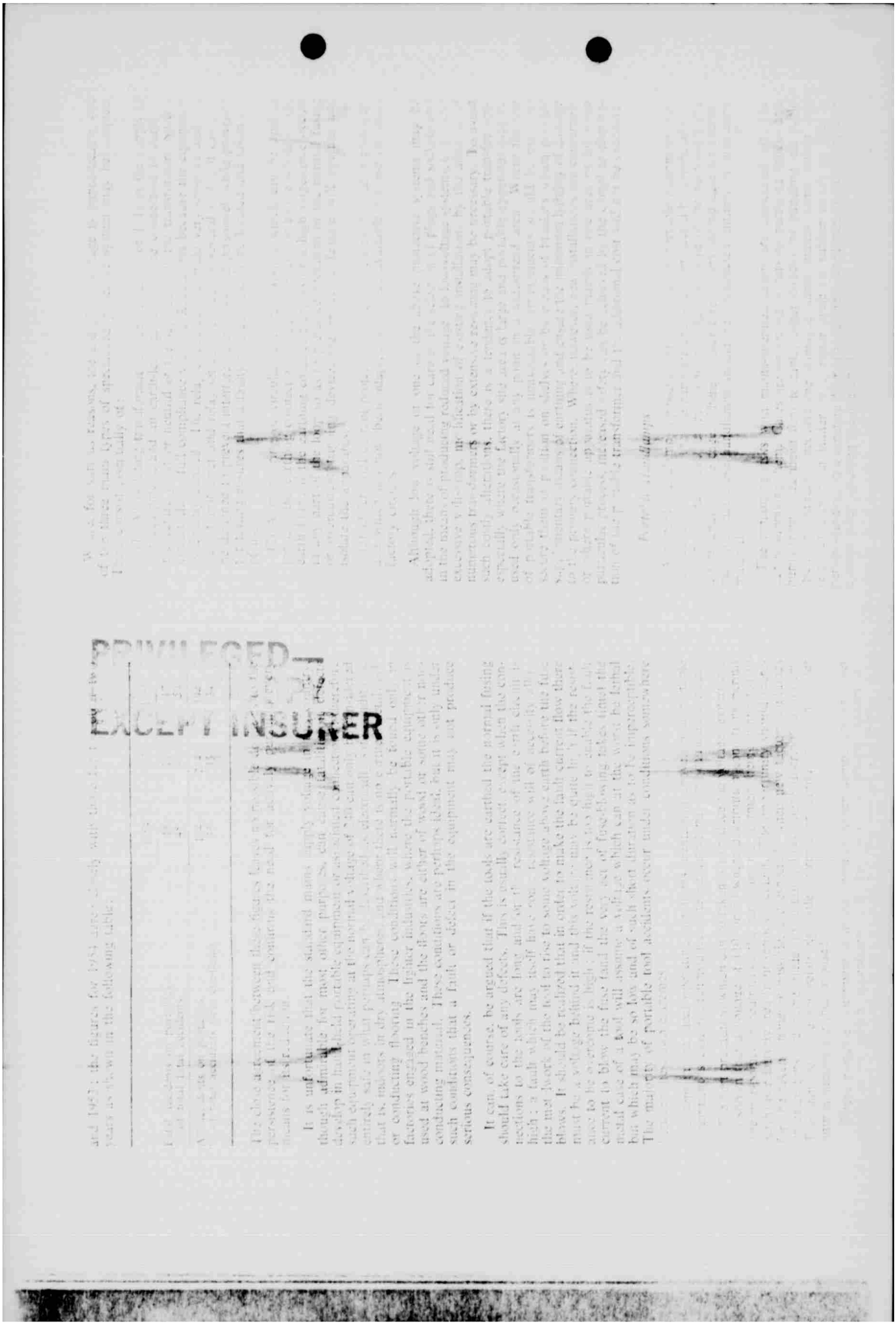
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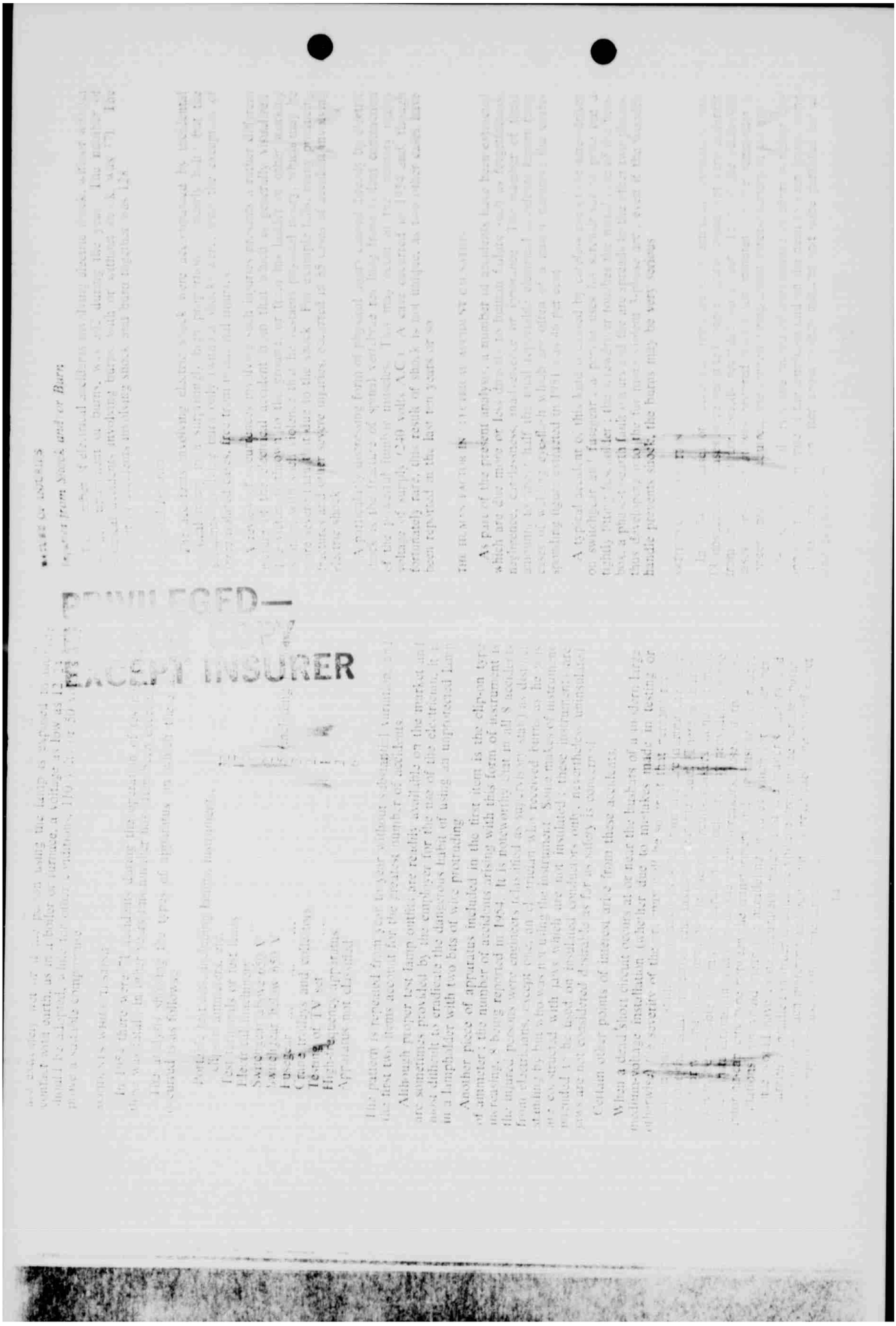


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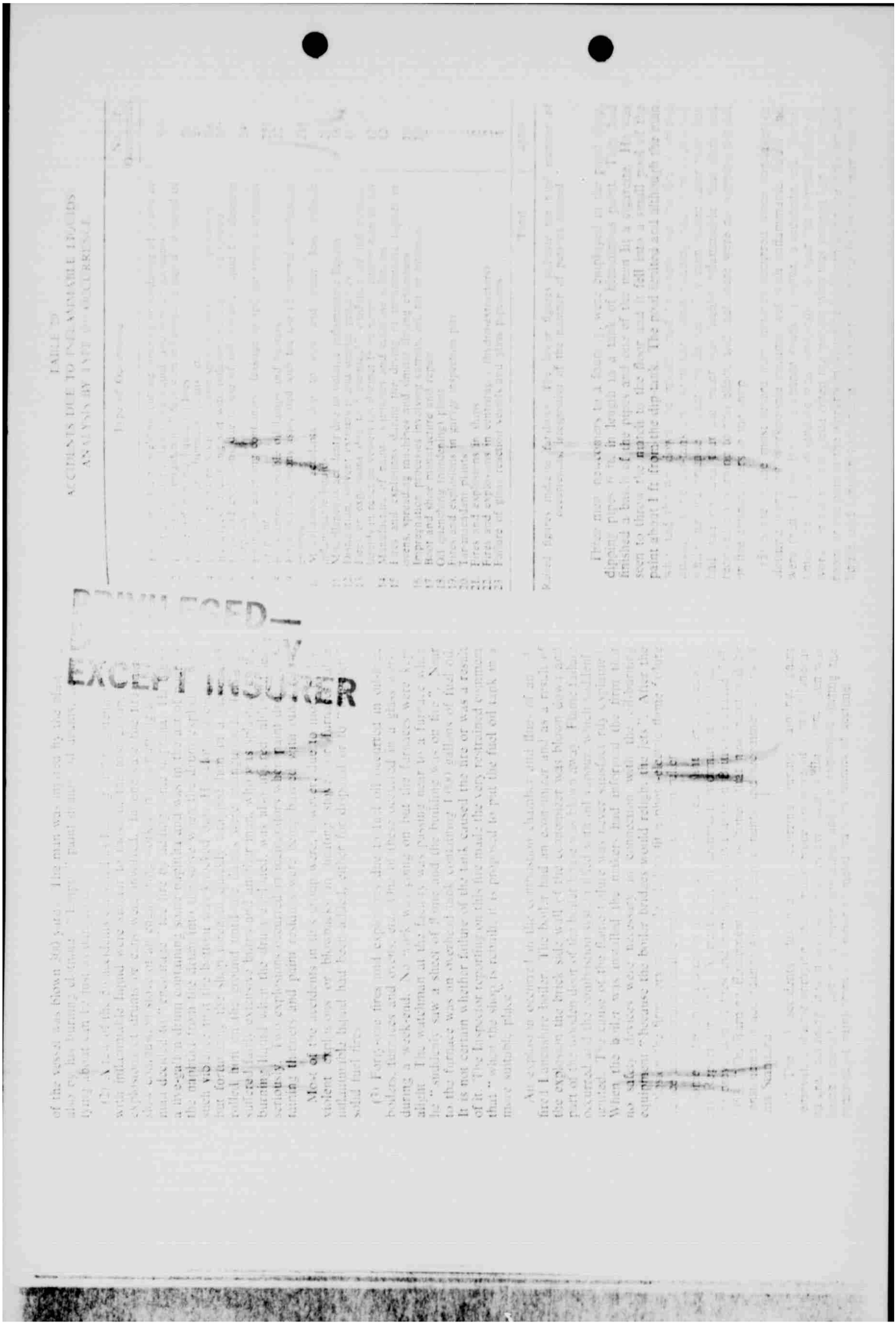
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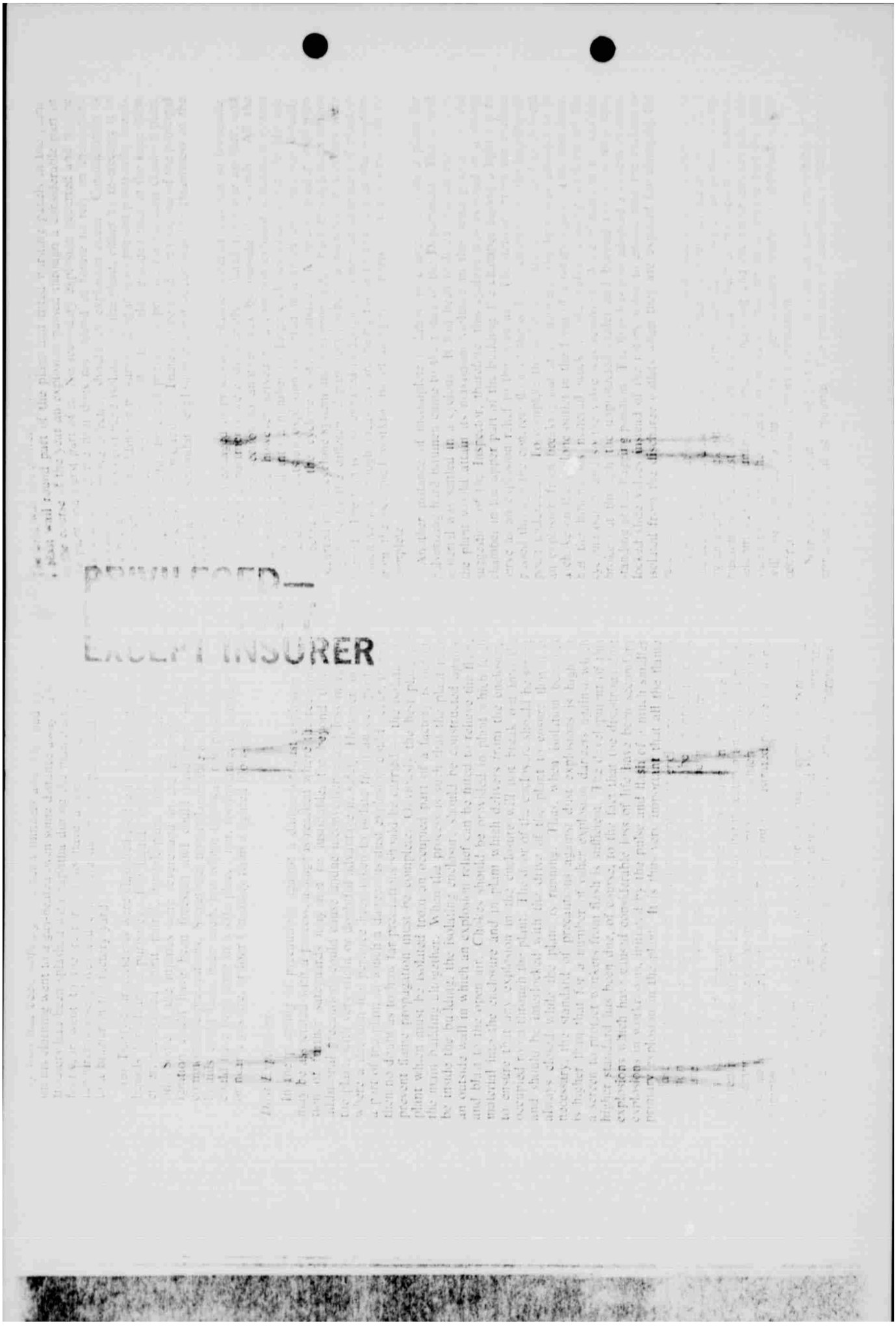
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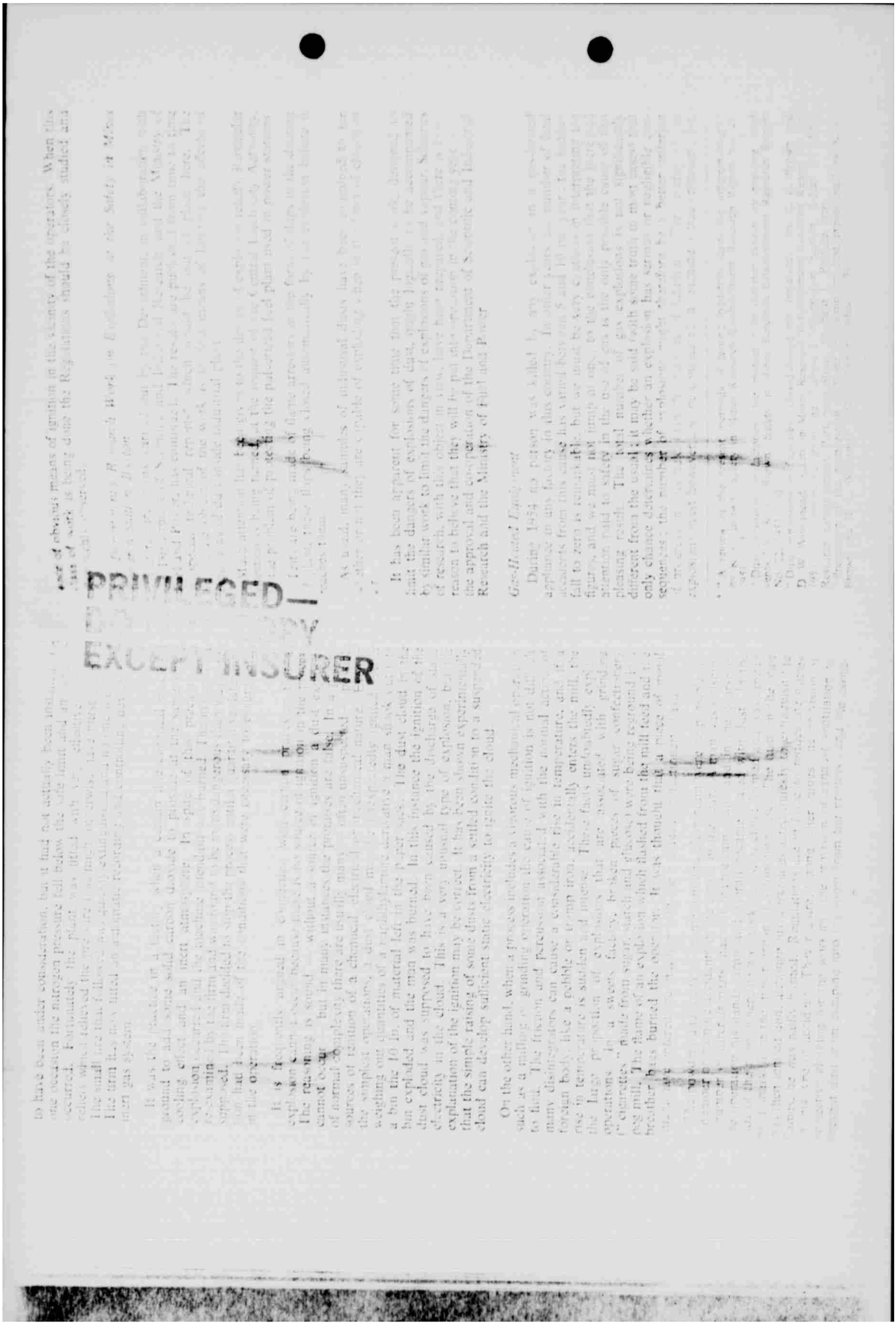
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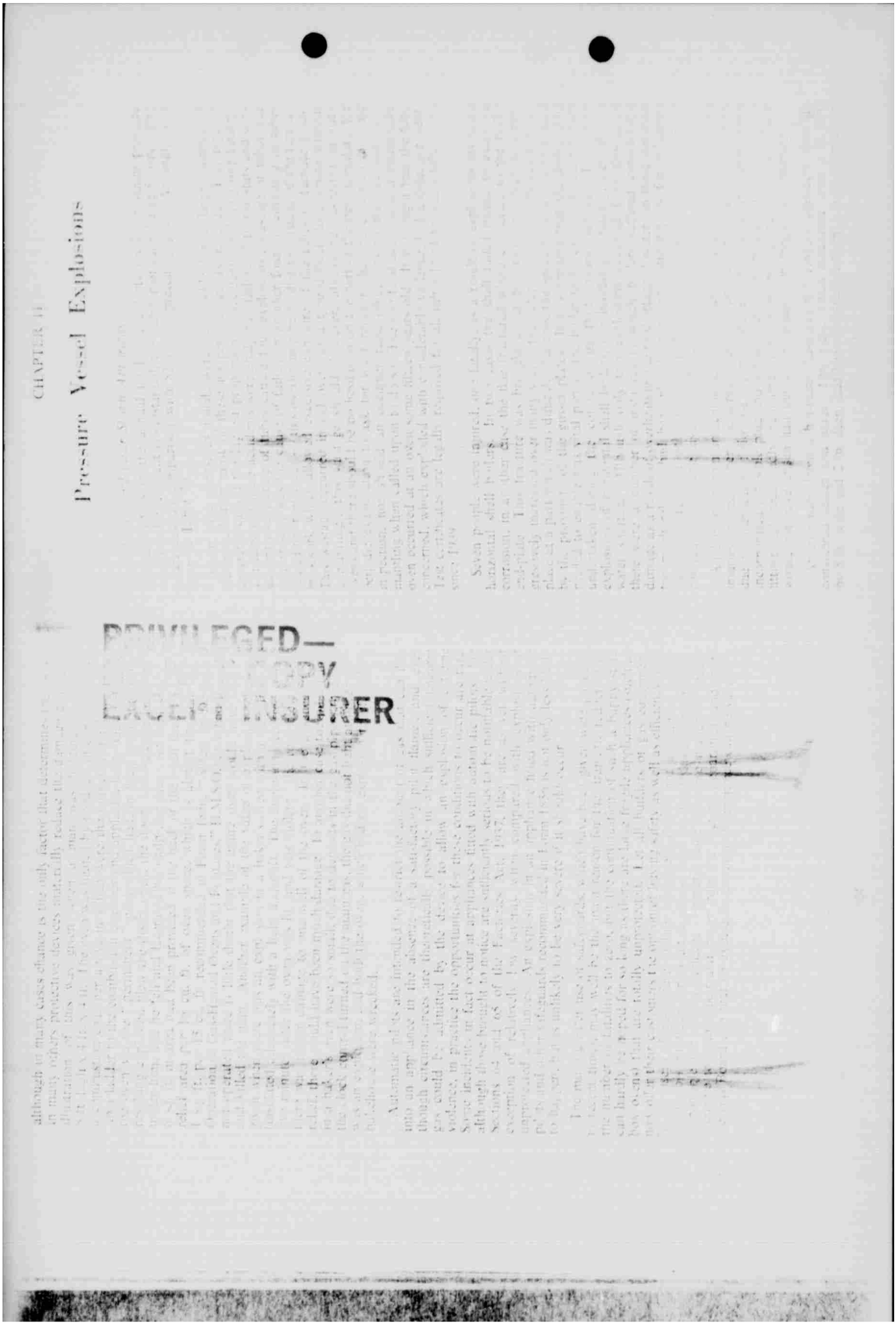
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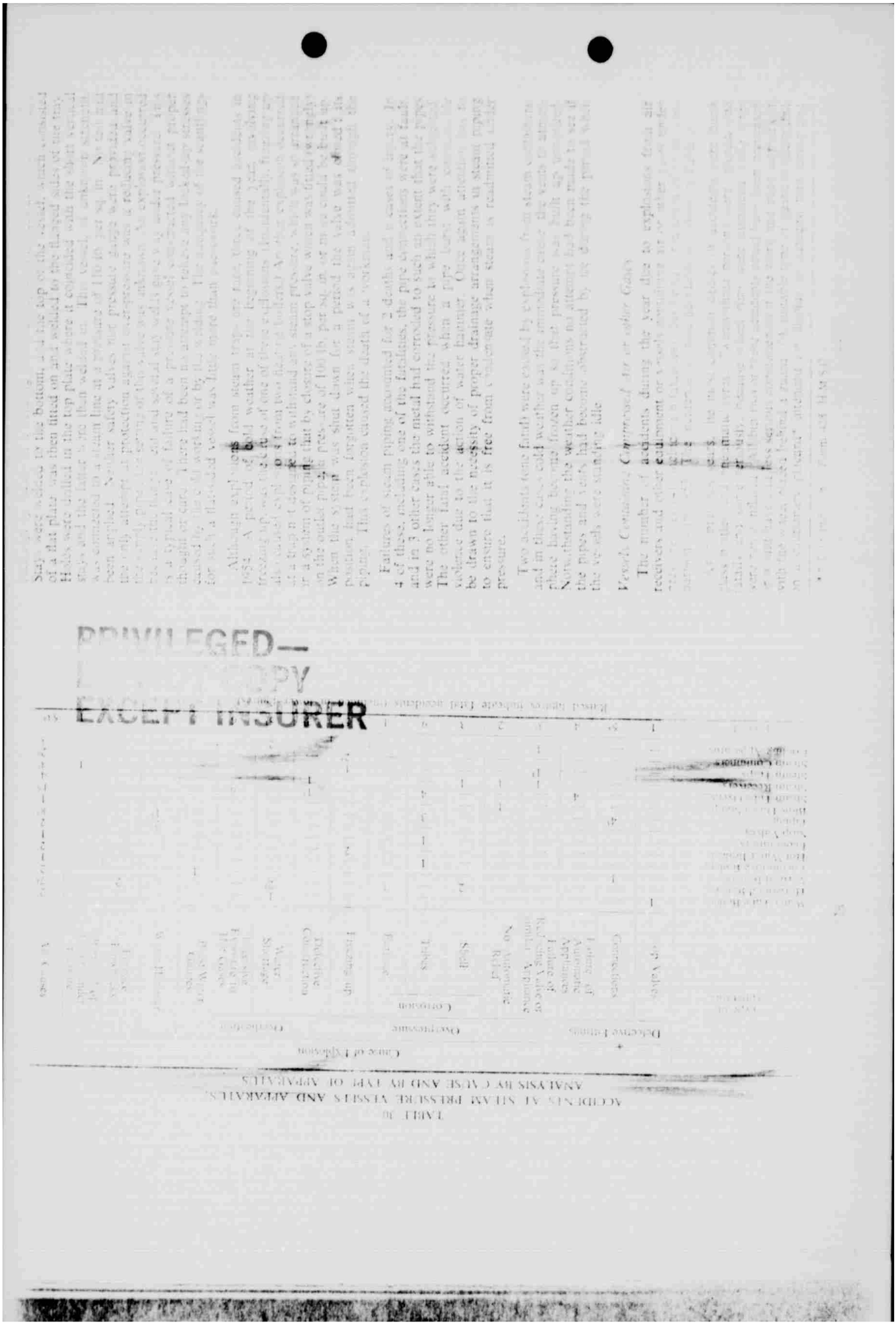

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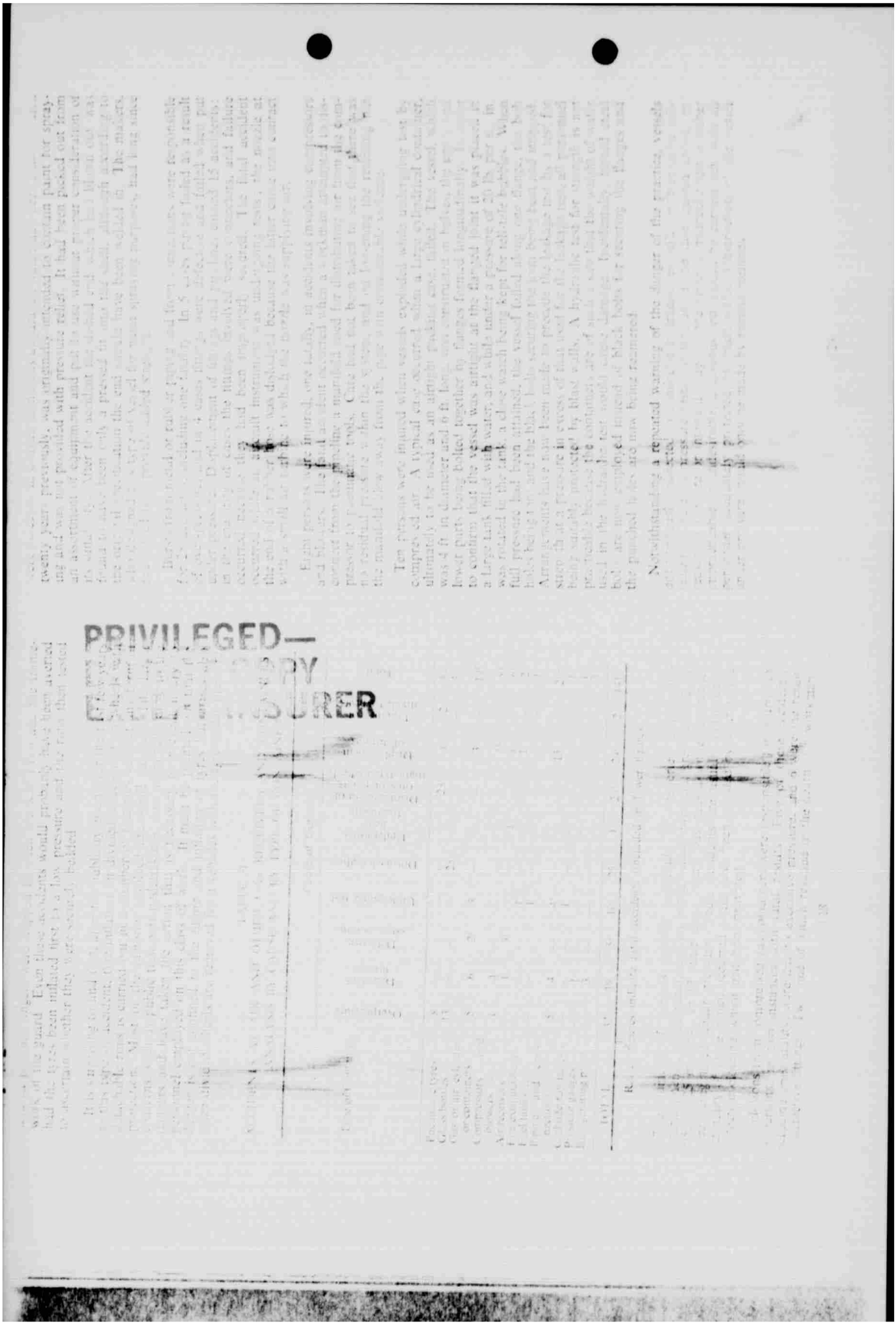


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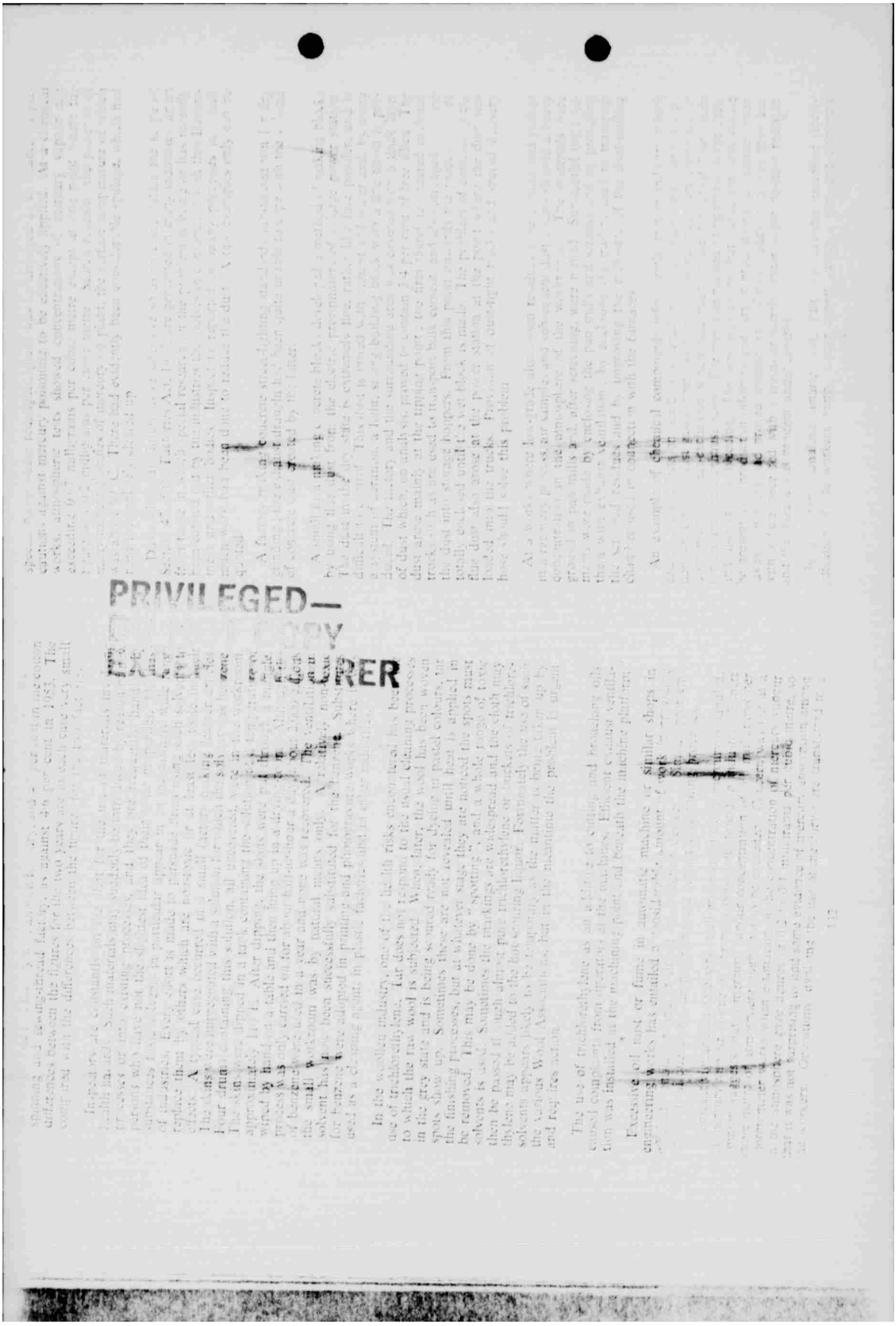
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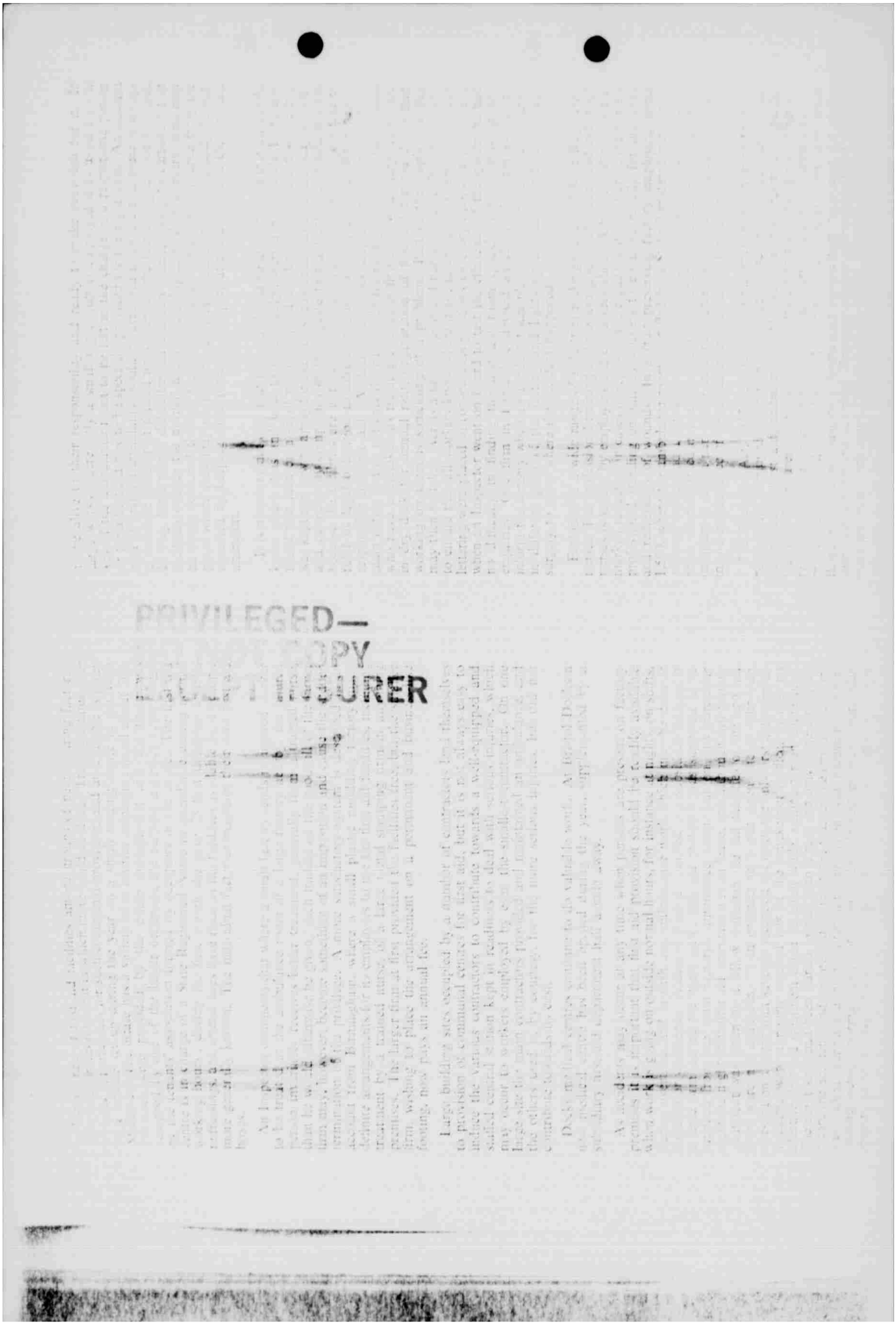
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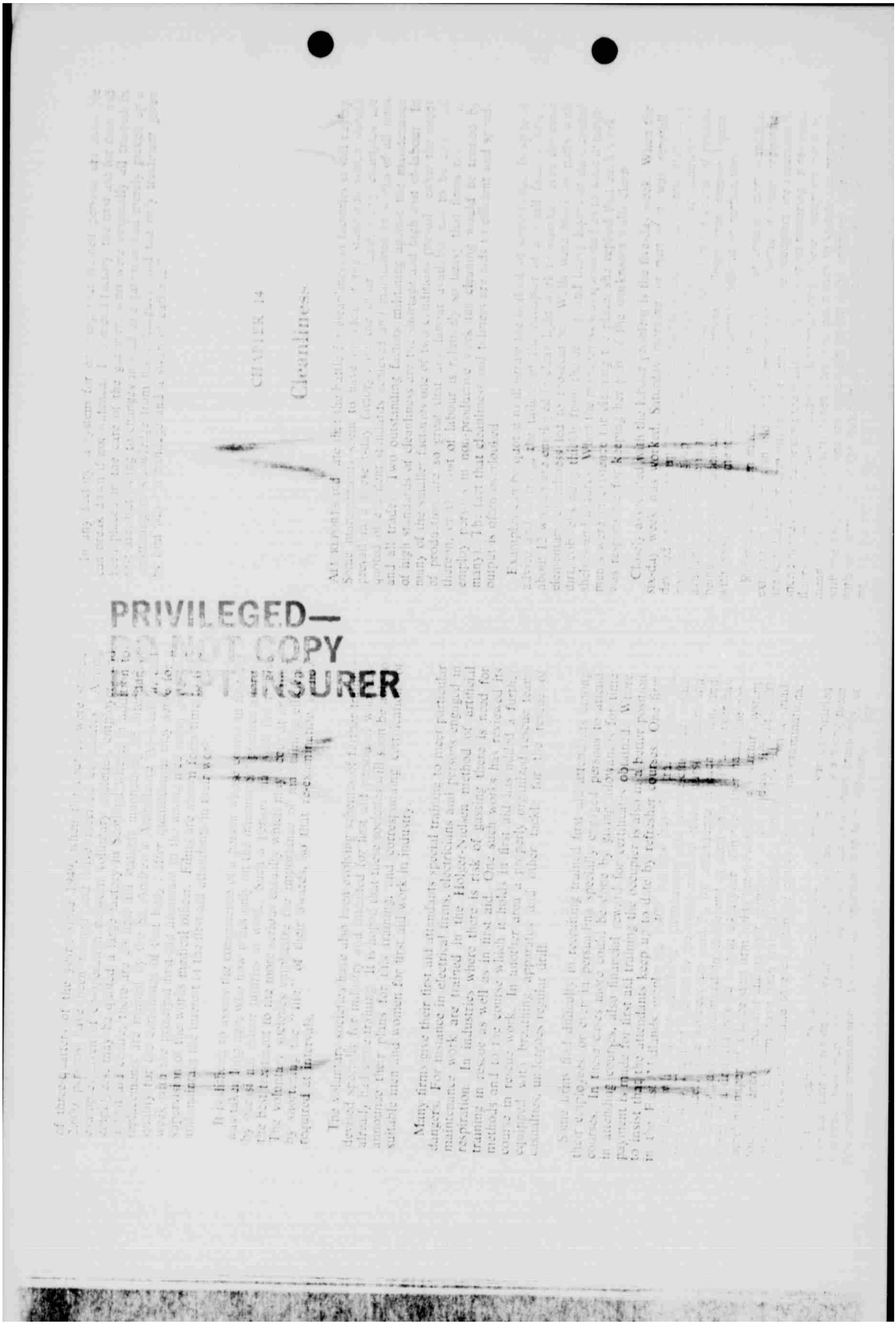
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CHAPTER 13

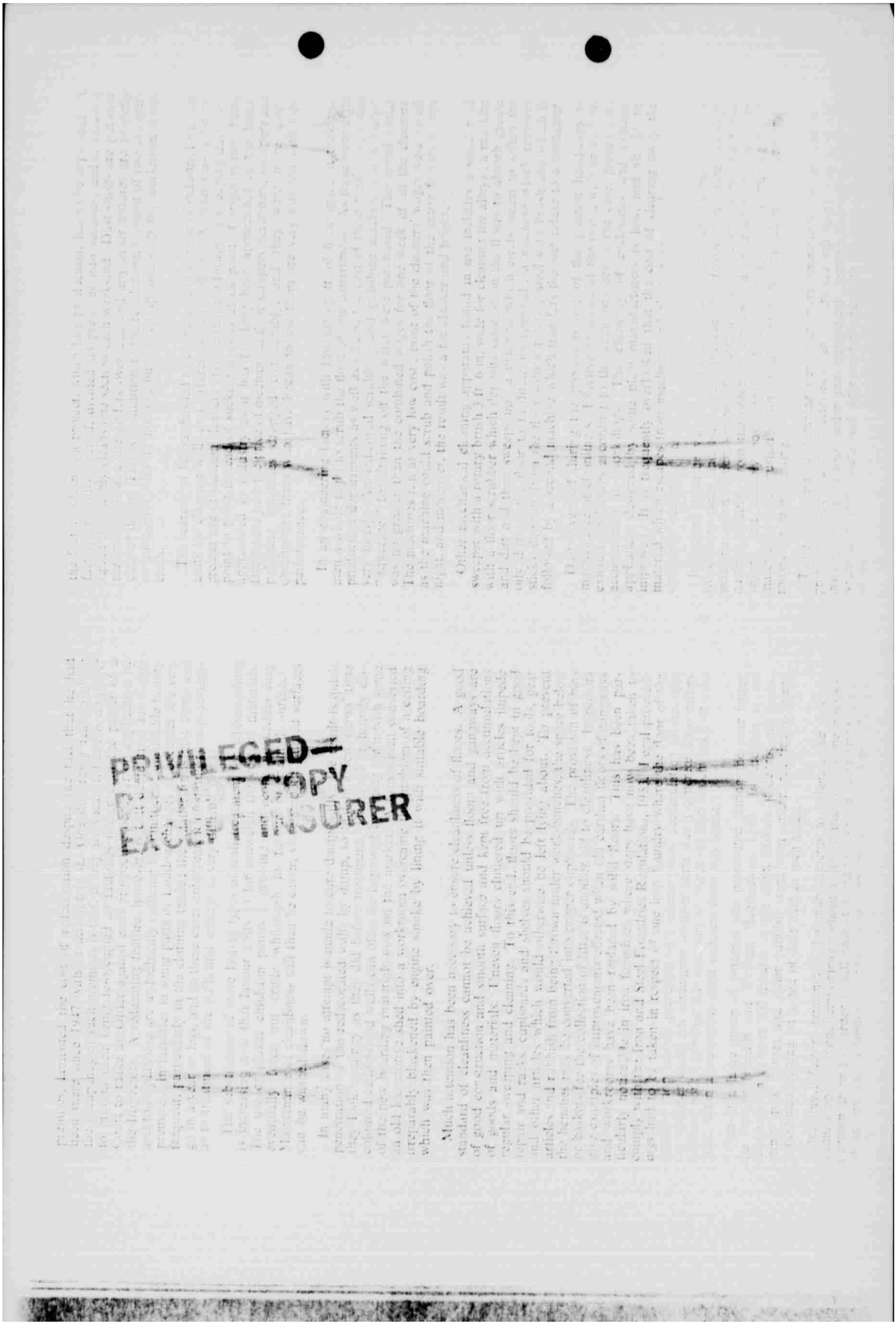
First Aid, Ambulance and Training of First Aid Attendants

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CHAPTER 15

Temperature and Ventilation

TEMPERATURE

THE GENERAL picture from all parts of the country indicates that although most factories are fairly well heated, much could still be done to provide more comfortable conditions if thought were given to the use of modern equipment, to the provision of thermal insulation for the building, and to the prevention of draughts.

The testing time for most heating systems comes during the real, cold weather which, though it may be expected for a shorter or longer period every winter, invariably finds some factories unprepared. Indeed, some heating systems seem designed only to deal with outside temperatures of around 40° F. and are quite unable to maintain a reasonable temperature when outside temperatures are in the region of 25° to 30°. The time to deal with inadequate heating is not in the middle of the cold spell, but during the earlier part of the year, when both the building and the heating system should receive attention. One firm delayed the installation of a hot-air plenum system so long that when the cold weather came the only means available for heating a building with air space of 36,000 cubic feet was three single-bar electric heaters.

Heat Loss

The best time of all to make adequate preparation is when the building is being erected. Inspectors continue to criticize the methods of building new factories, whereby the walls are put up by one contractor, the roof by another, leaving the equipment required for heating and ventilation to be fitted in by some means or other after the building has been completed. The single-storey factory building erected in considerable quantities since the war with asbestos-cement sheeted walls or roof has been a difficult type of building to heat economically, and in many cases the insulation which could have been easily and cheaply incorporated during the course of erection has had to be added afterwards with considerable trouble and at extra expense. For example, it was found impossible adequately to heat a new single-storey building by the overhead unit heaters which had been installed for

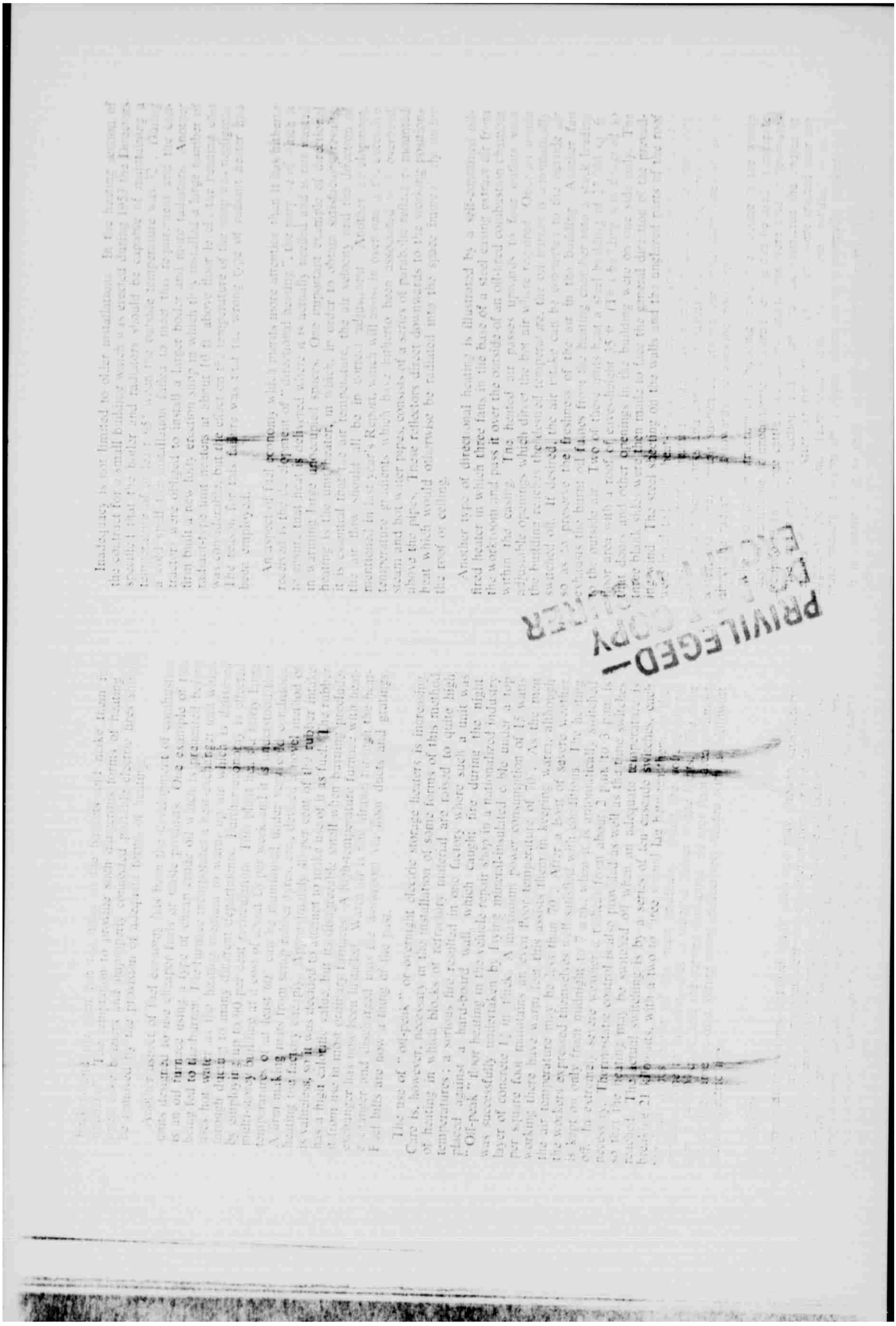
and mush-operated roof louvres which, with finned steam pipes at a low level, have enabled this firm to keep a temperature of about 60° in cold weather when no pouring was being done. Controlled roof outlets of another type were installed during modernization and re-equipping of a woollen mill which had been burned out in the preceding year. A sheeted roof, underdrawn, and interlined with glass wool, was erected in place of the burned down roof. Natural-draught ventilators were liberally provided, each third one being automatically operated by its own thermostat. When a temperature of 65° is reached these automatic ventilators start to open. The shutters of the remaining ones are hand-operated by individual cords. The heating is by overhead steam pipes and by panel-type radiators which are set about 10 ft. above the floor and inclined at an angle of 45 degrees to it. When the room was visited, at the height of a blizzard, the temperature was being held easily at 65° and the workpeople were very pleased with the conditions. The firm are convinced that they are effecting a definite saving in steam.

The problem of heat loss through large doors may be solved in some works by double doors with heat locks between them, but only where of heat locks which depends on the workers closing the doors is doomed to failure. Self-closing doors are, of course, useful, and of these, canvas-reinforced sheet rubber doors are becoming increasingly popular. These consist of rubber sheeting about ¼ in. thick made up into doors by being mounted on a hinge-stile and top rail of steel scantlings. These doors are flexible and can be pushed with impunity by trucks, but sight-panels of transparent plastic are of course, advisable. The provision of self-closing rubber doors alone is, however, not an entirely satisfactory answer to the problem of draughts as the doors are affected by driving winds.

movement of trucks can be facilitated by using pairs of small swing through which the trucks may pass without opening the larger doors in the wall of the factory. The small doors can be electrically controlled and by a start-button fixed some yards before the doors so that the may operate it before reaching the doors and without dis- A timing device then causes the doors to open for a set time. Other incorporate photo-electric cells, control the opening and the doors automatically and enable the striker-buttons to be These are being more widely used, but are rather more costly the simplest possible arrangement was made in one works, by agreement with everyone concerned, namely to bring in vehicles — the only

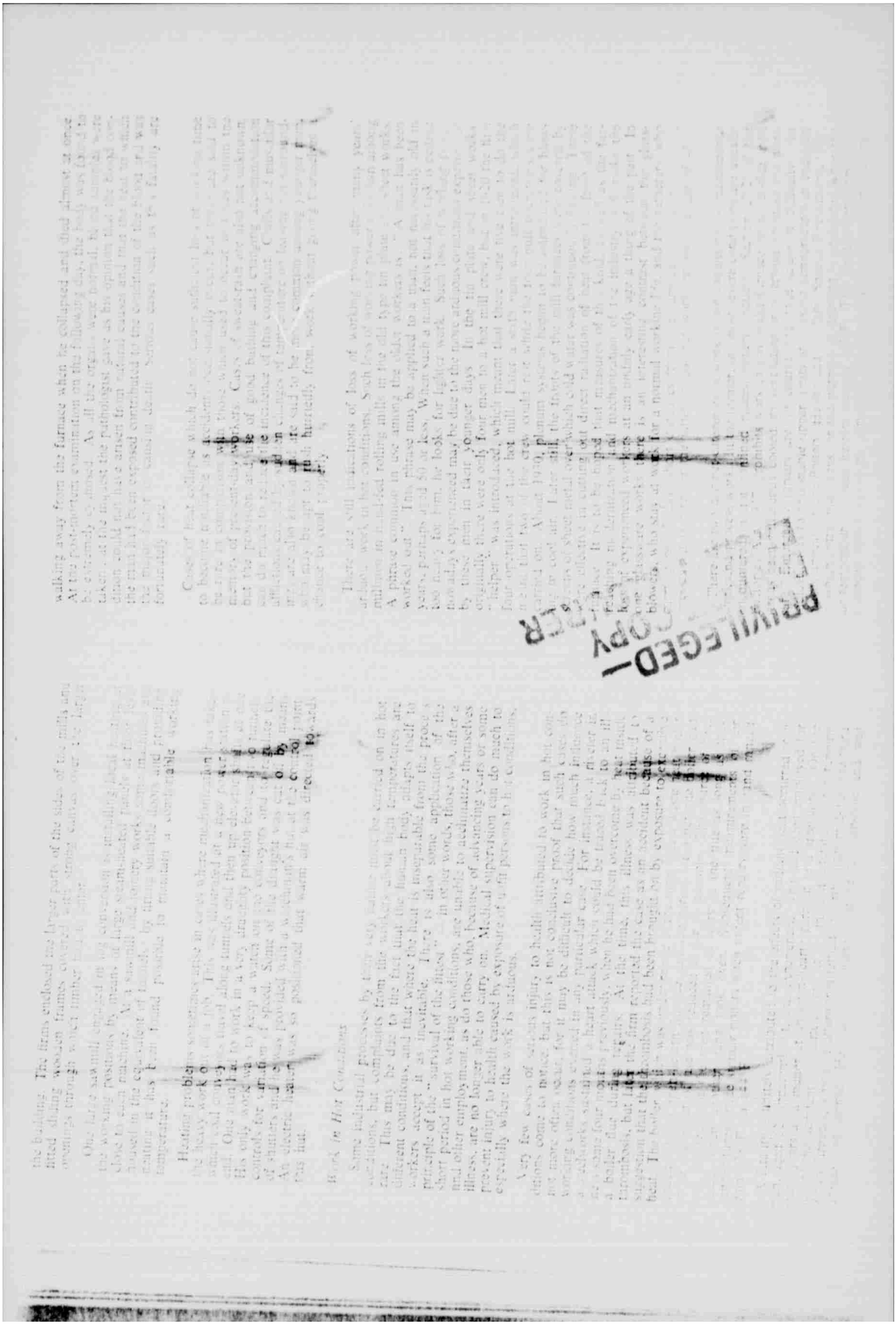
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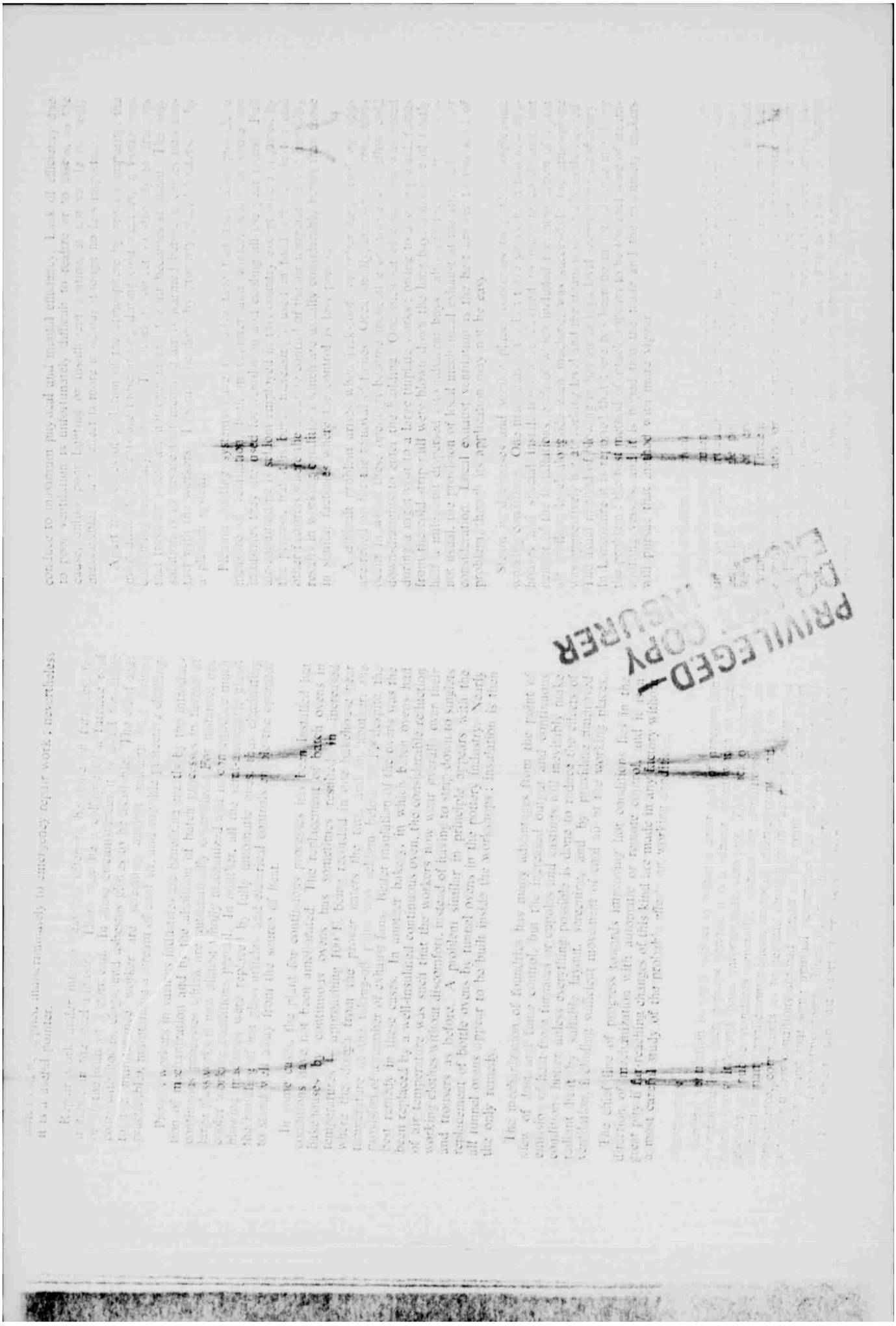


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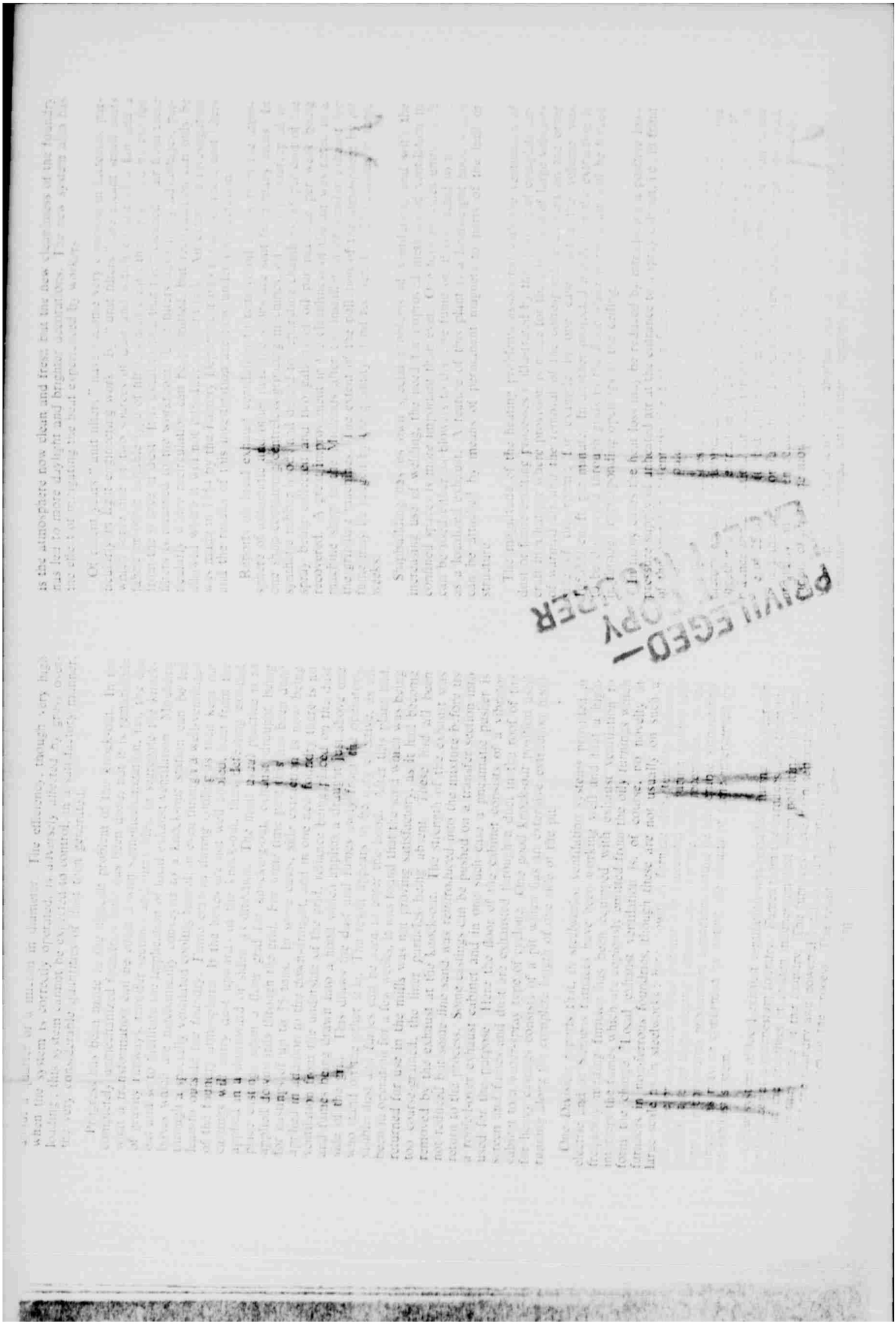
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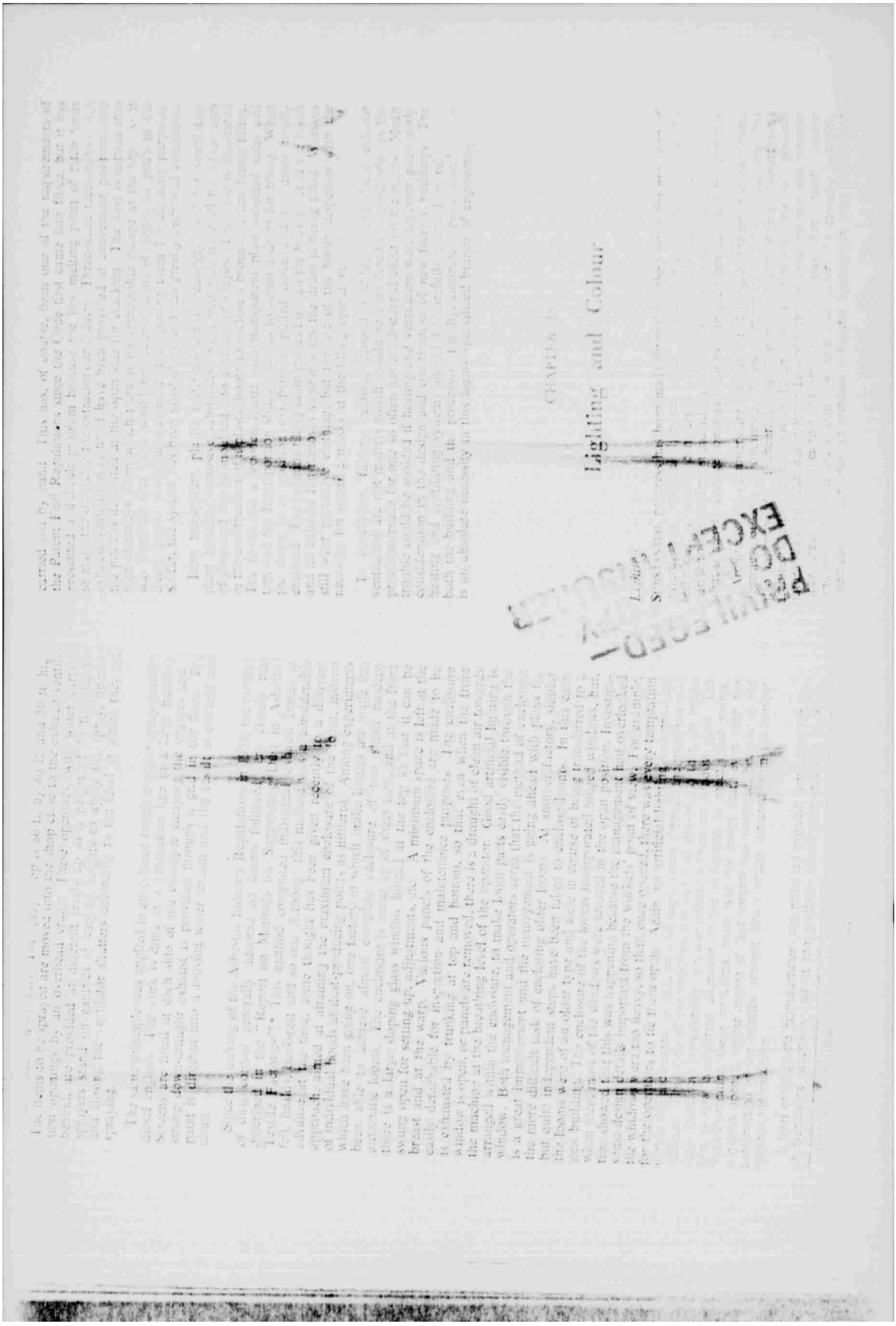
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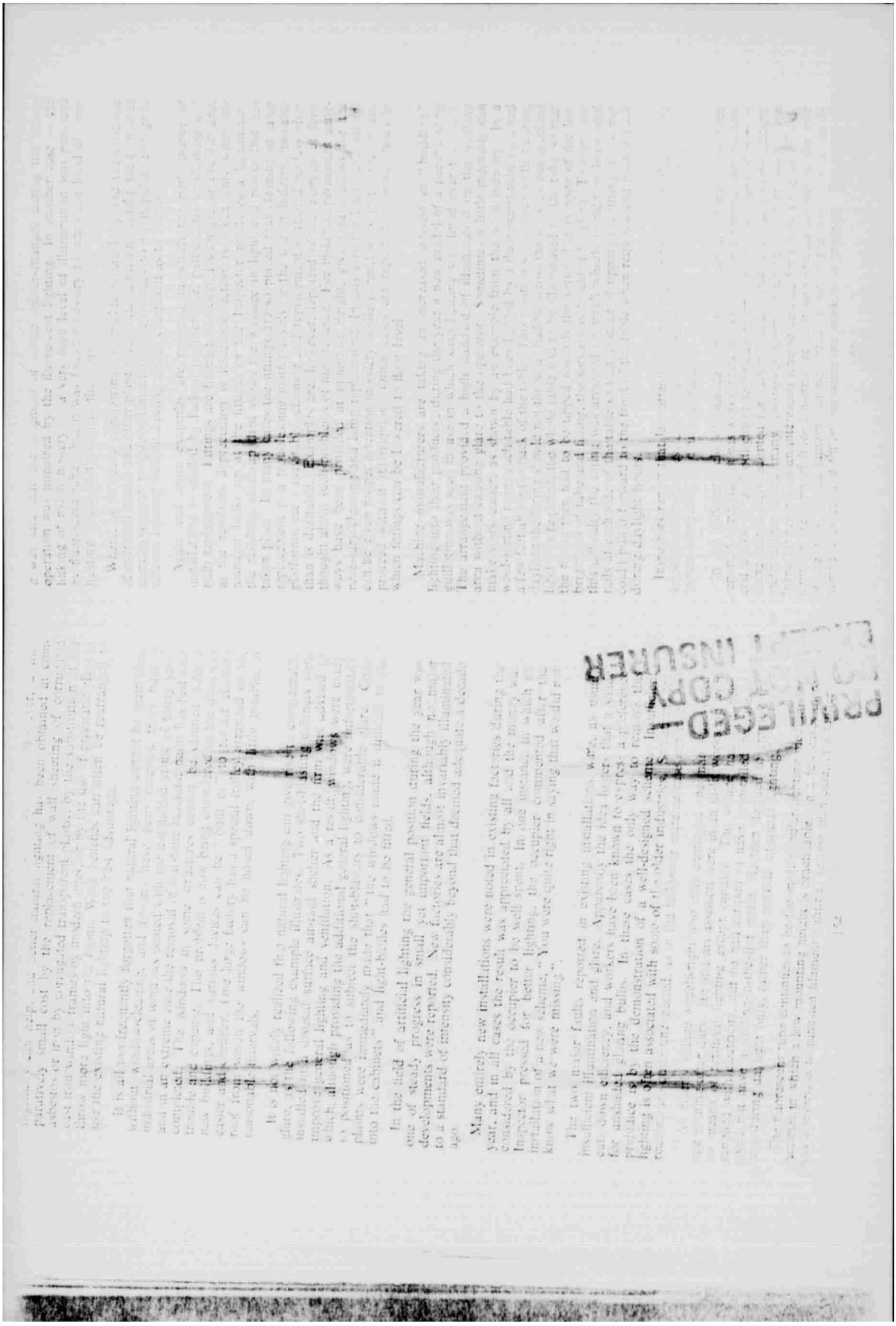


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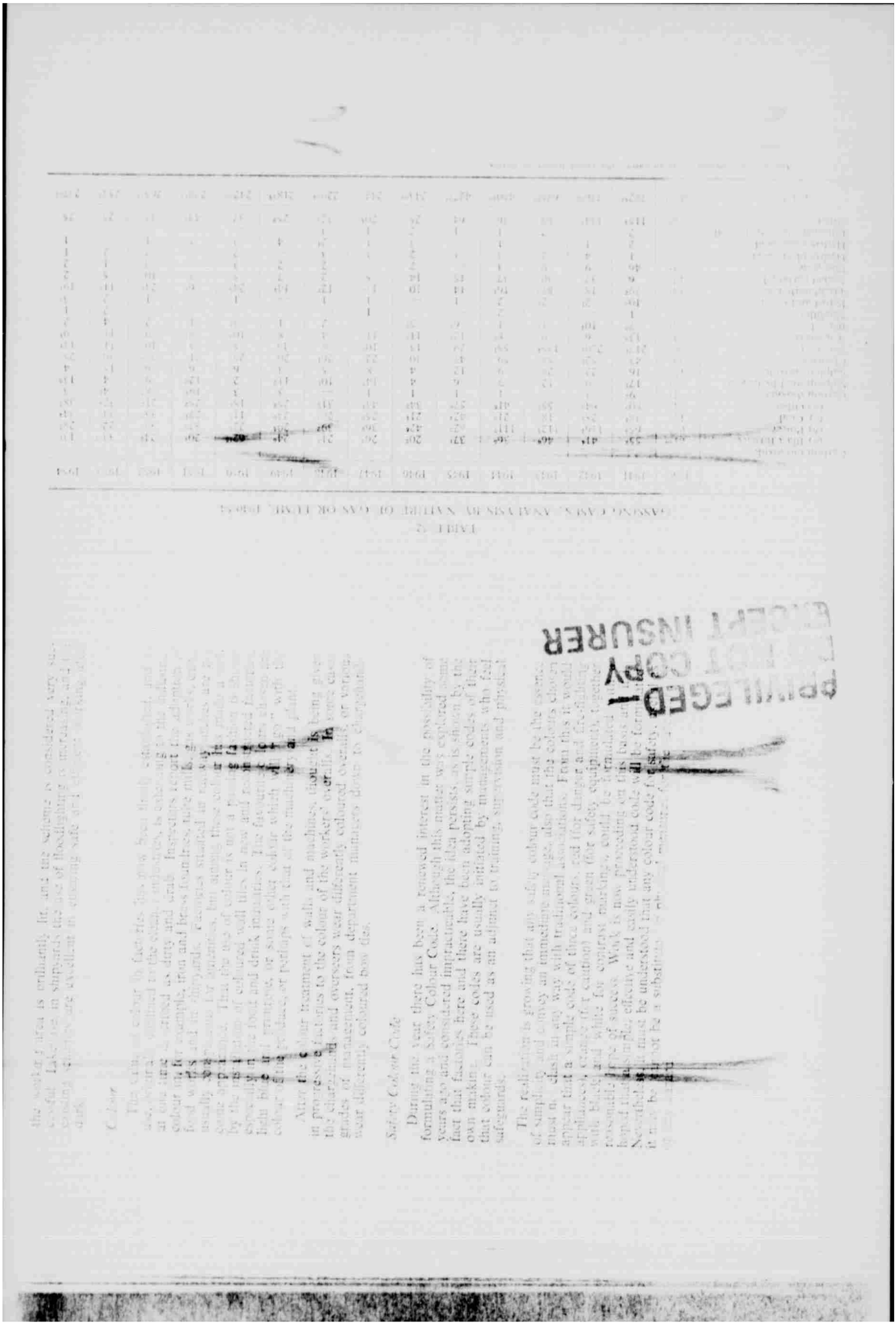


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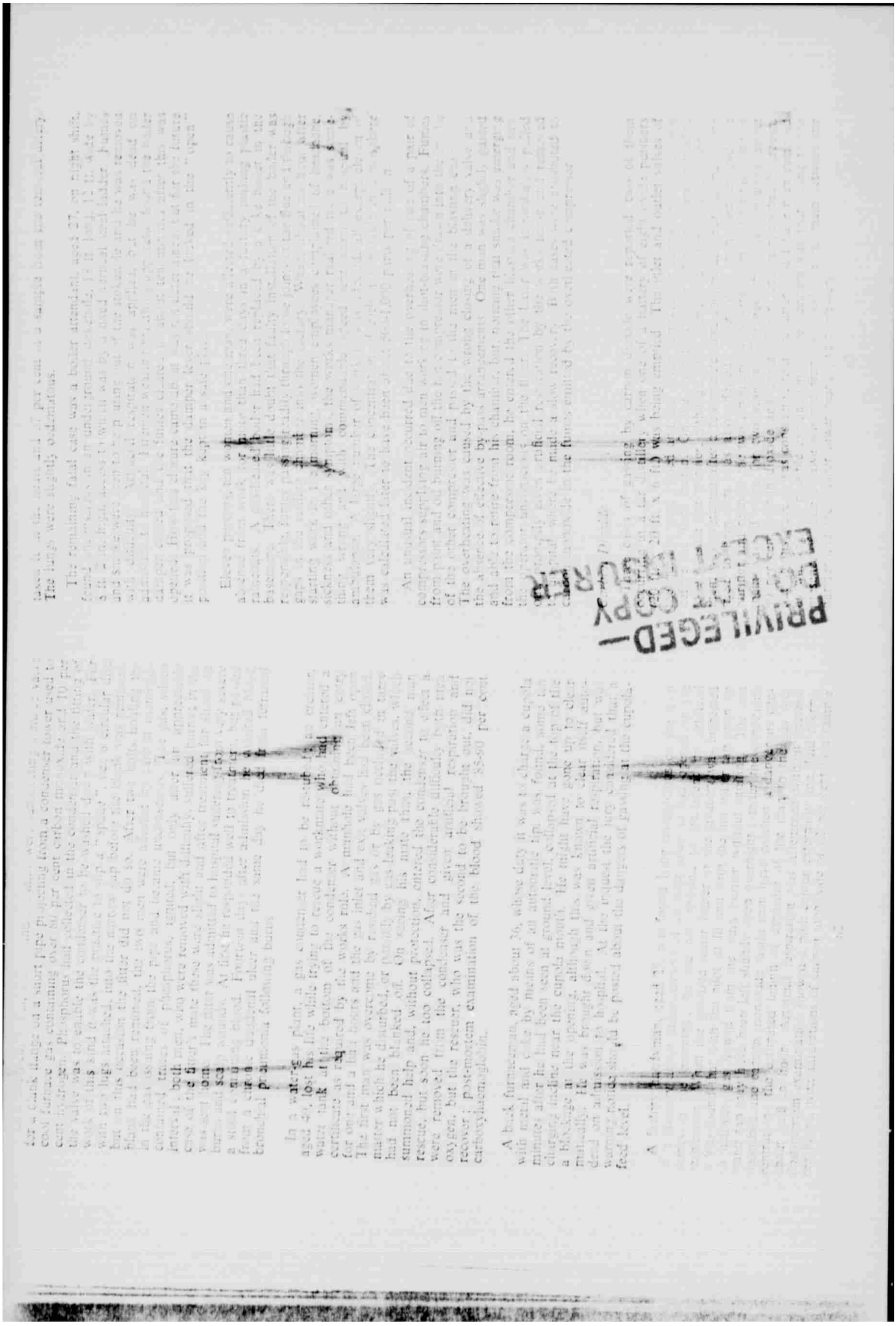


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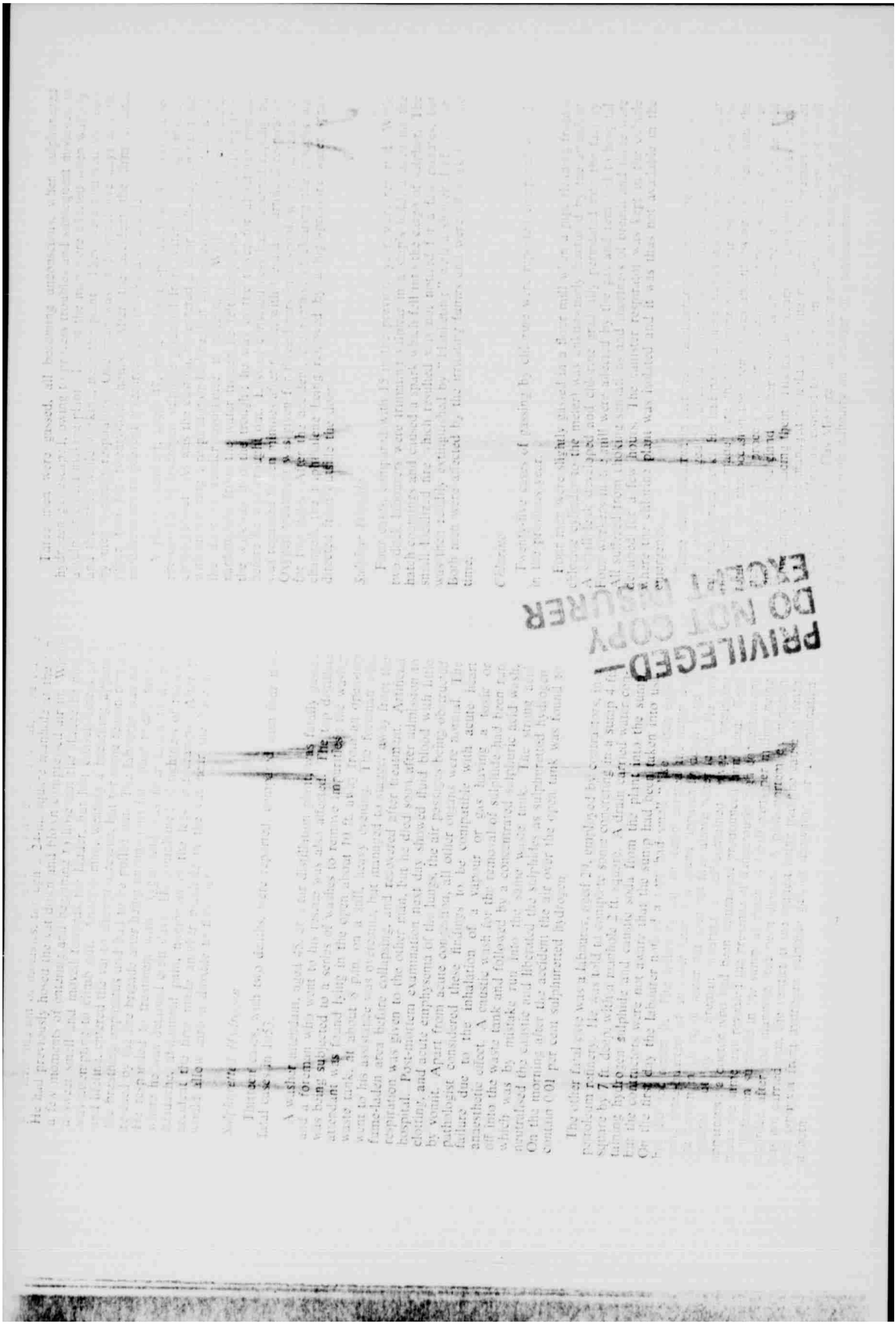
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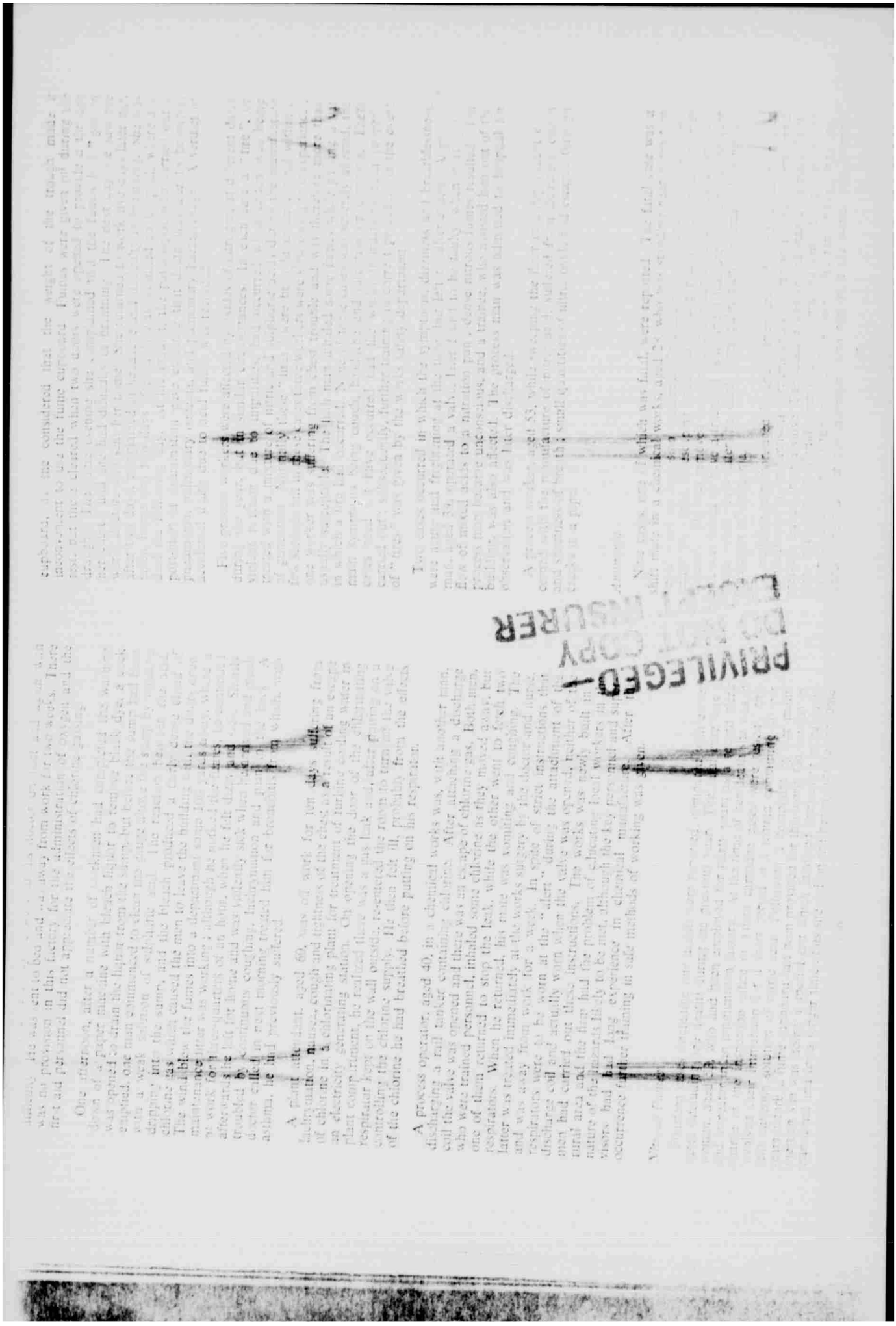
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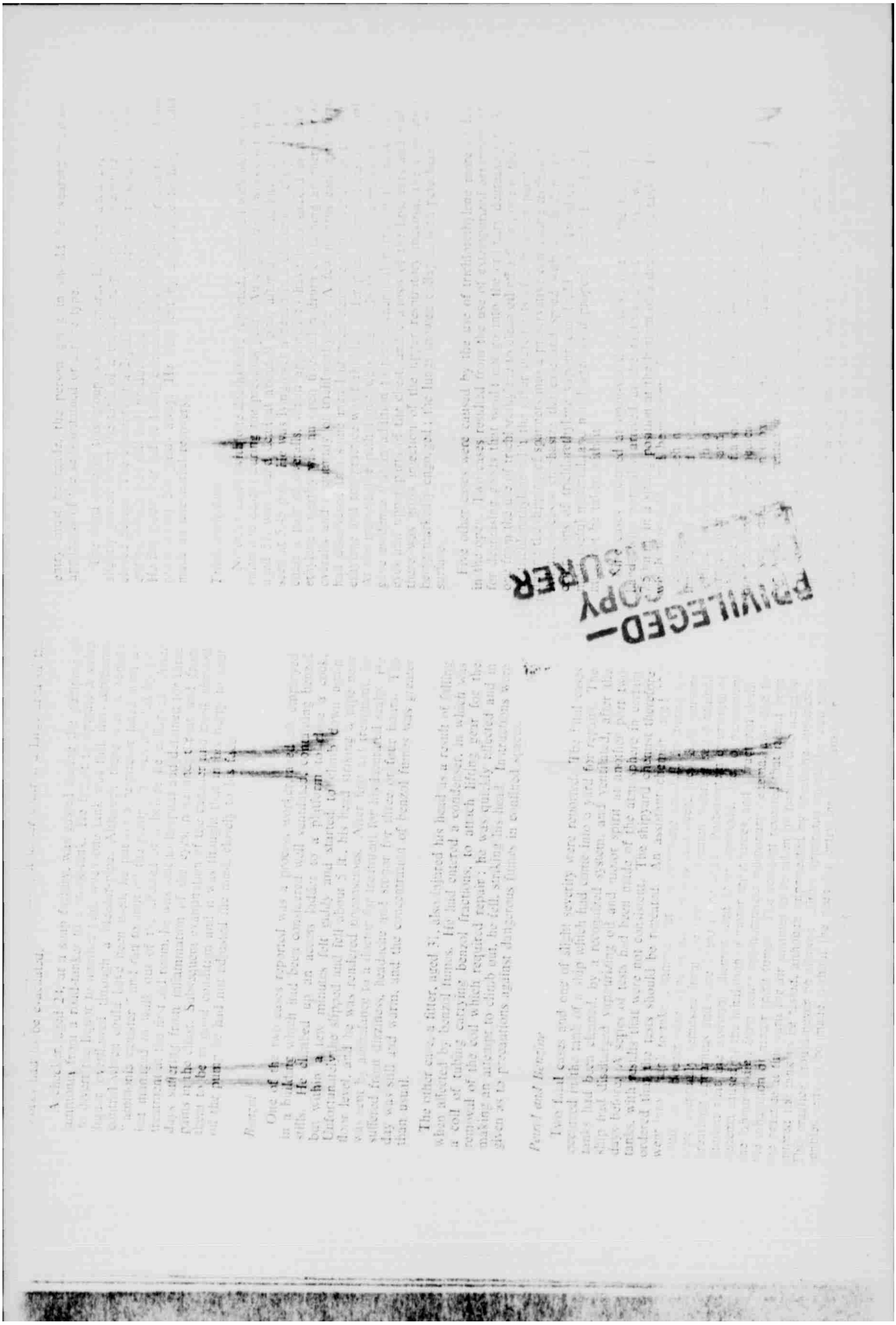

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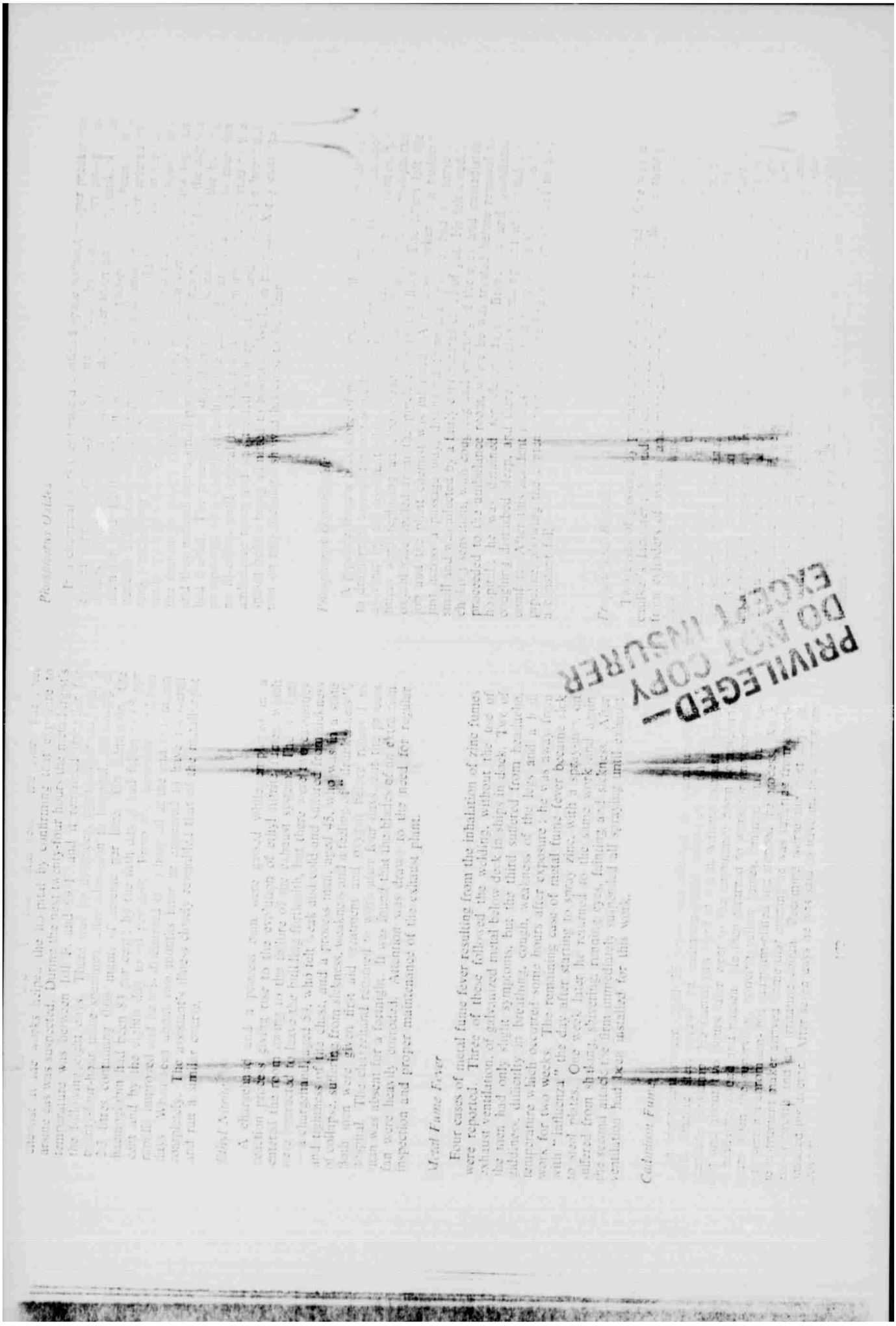
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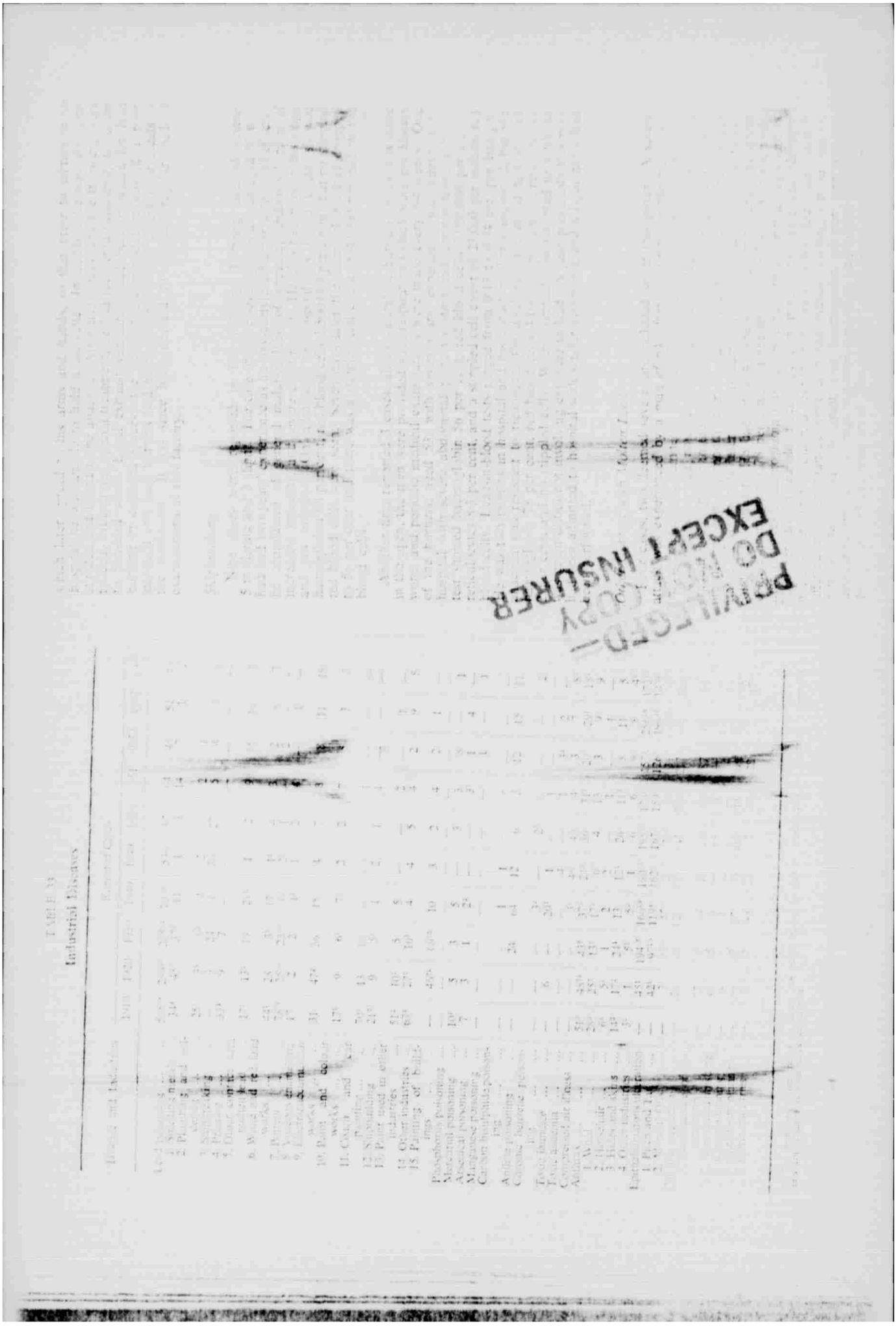


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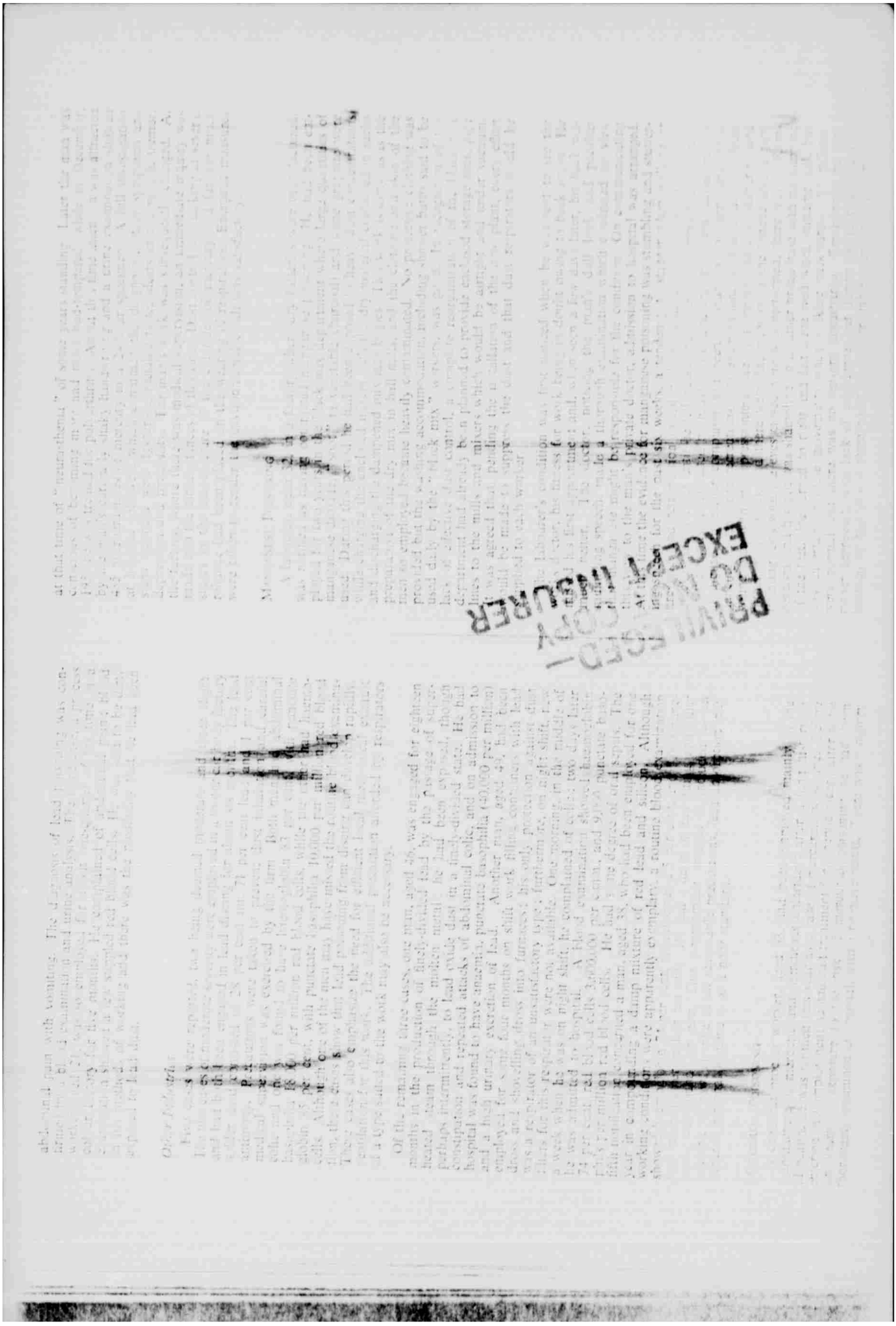
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was employed as a ring spinner. On 30th March the father showed to his doctor a septic sore which he had had for 4 days on the back of the left wrist. The doctor, suspecting anthrax, gave an immediate injection of one million units of penicillin and transferred him to hospital, where the diagnosis was confirmed bacteriologically. He was successfully treated with aureomycin and sulphadiazine, being discharged on 21st April. His daughter had been off work, owing to a finger injury, from 15th February to 20th April when she returned to the factory; she had visited her father in hospital on one occasion but "did not come near". On 4th May, eight days after return to work, she noticed a pimple under her chin but took no action until 7th May when on her doctor's advice she was admitted to hospital. Anthrax was confirmed bacteriologically and was successfully treated with penicillin and sulphadiazine. A large number of dust and wool samples from the factory was examined but anthrax bacilli were isolated from only one sample, which was taken from a shaker used to recover wool from fellings and floor sweepings. The possibilities here appear to be either that two independent infections occurred at work, or that the daughter's infection was acquired at home; it may be significant that her mother washed the father's working clothing after he went to hospital, while during the initial days of his illness, articles such as towels were in common use in the home. The girl's contact with her father was limited to the period up to 30th March, but infection may have occurred later from contact with spore-bearing clothing or with dust at home; on the other hand she may have been infected at work, since she had been opening the same material which was being walleyed at the time of her father's infection (although the samples from this material were negative bacteriologically).

A very severe infection occurred in a willeyer, aged 42, in a woollen yarn spinning mill using a small quantity of Iraqi wool and a good deal of scoured East India Vicuna. During the week before his illness this man had been engaged on shaking and removing waste. He reported to his doctor on account of a small pustule on the left side of the neck, with pain and swelling of the glands in the neck; two days later he was admitted to hospital gravely ill, with severe oedema of the face and neck, spreading downwards to the waist. Vomiting had been troublesome before admission, and later he developed a haemorrhagic sputum so that at one time pulmonary anthrax was suspected. A recovery was made; details of treatment in hospital are not available, but before admission he had had chloromycetin.

Hides and Skins

Of the five cases due to hides and skins, four were employed in a tannery or docks, while one was a lairyard labourer, at a tannery. Three of the lesions were on the face, one was on the neck and one was on the forearm. In each the right eye and when on the fifth day he was admitted to hospital he had a high temperature, headache, shivering, and marked oedema of the right side of the face and neck. He was successfully treated with penicillin and, although the diagnosis was not confirmed bacteriologically, the clinical appearance left little in no doubt.

Other Industries

Of the four cases in other industries, three worked in glue and gelatine factories and one as a waste dealer. There was one fatality; this case was a labourer, aged 52, who had handled skin scraps and dried imported bones in a glue and gelatine factory. He had been off work, suffering from stomach trouble, for six of the previous eight months, including a continuous period of sixteen weeks shortly before he was infected. On return to work he had done light labouring, including sweeping up and opening bags of bones. On the 1st January he complained to his foreman of a stiff neck, due to a sore behind the ear, which he had had for about five days. The foreman, alert to the possibility of anthrax infection, advised him to see his doctor, which he did the same day, and he was removed to hospital the day after. On admission he had a sore, behind and a little below the left ear, with marked swelling of the neck, face, and chest wall; he was a very sick man with signs of circulatory failure. A virulent anthrax infection was confirmed bacteriologically and he was treated with penicillin and terramycin followed by anti-anthrax serum, but he died two days after admission. As previous cases of anthrax had occurred in this factory, the firm proposed to make fresh efforts to reduce the contact with potentially infected material, and the amount of dust. Arrangements were also made to send any suspicious case to hospital immediately.

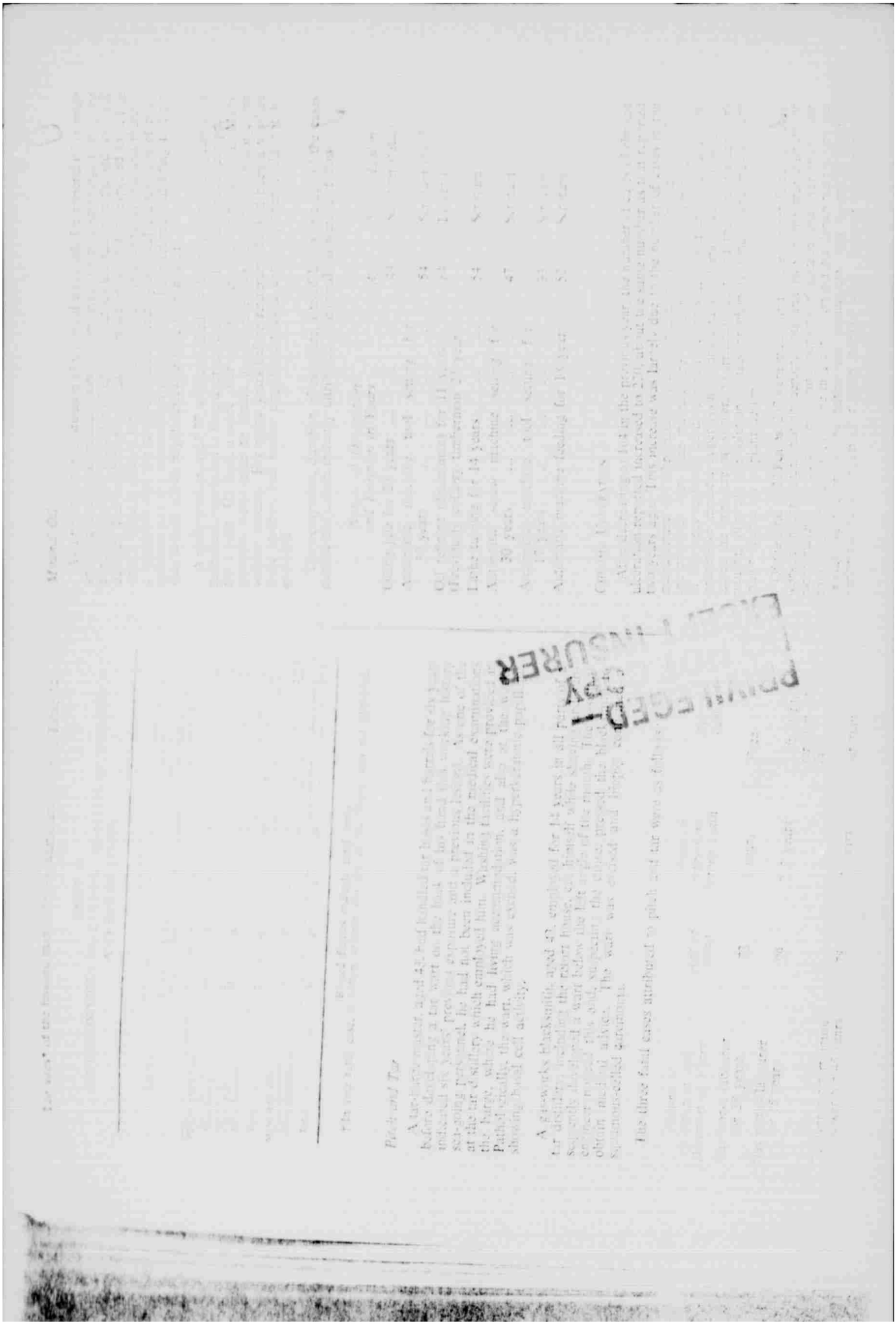
Another case, which occurred later in the same factory, was a general [illegible] man, aged 60. Since the previous case, the firm had installed a steriliser for dealing with sacks before they left the factory. It was found that the foreman, who intermittently carried out this sterilization, had been in the habit of shaking each sack before putting it into the steriliser, a most dangerous practice which was stopped at once. This man noticed a small pimple on the back of his neck and, after comparing it with the illustrations on his anthrax card, went at once to hospital where his suspicions were confirmed. This prompt action resulted in the disease being treated at an early stage and the attack was a light one.

EPITHELIOMATOUS ULCERATION

One hundred and sixty-four cases of epithelioma tous ulceration, one of which was fatal, were notified during the year. In addition, information was

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in colour marking, in contact with potassium bichromate, had multiple chrome ulcers on one hand.

The sites of the lesions in the 220 cases are shown in the table below:

Nature of Occupation	Nasal Septum	Upper Limb, including fingers	Lower Limb	Abdomen	Multiple
Manufacture of bichromates ...	25	49	1	–	28
Dyeing and finishing	–	1	–	–	–
Chromium plating ...	29	64	3	2	1
Other industries ...	12	4	–	–	1
Total ...	66	118	4	2	30

In the specified industries, the distribution of the lesions by site is similar to that found on previous occasions. Owing to the nature of the work in the bichromate industry, ulceration on two or more sites was relatively common: many cases suffered from chrome ulceration on more than one limb or, for example, on a finger and in the nasal septum. A rigger, aged 37, in a firm manufacturing bichromate, sustained, just inside one nostril, a chrome ulcer which gave rise to a cellulitis of the neighbouring tissues, causing radiating neuralgia of the face and head.

All the lesions due to chromium plating were, except in one case, single lesions, nearly two-thirds of which occurred on the hands or fingers, while nearly one-third consisted of ulceration of the nasal septum. Two cases of ulceration of the skin of the abdomen were due to chromic acid crystals falling through the workers' shirt-fronts during the replenishment of the bath. One of these men subsequently developed two circular chrome ulcers, each about half an inch in diameter, on the abdominal wall. There are other and safer ways of replenishing a chrome bath. In 23 cases, including 18 employed on chromium plating, it was reported that ulceration followed the entry of chromic acid solution or crystals into small cuts or abrasions which had not been adequately protected by waterproof dressings.

Six of the 17 cases recorded under "other industries" worked in a chromating process to which the Chromium Plating Regulations do not apply. Fume arose from the chromating baths due to the poor design of the exhaust ventilation. All these cases suffered from chrome ulceration of the nasal septum. The firm instituted periodical medical examinations and [illegible]

ASBESTOSIS AND CANCER OF THE LUNG

In 1947 an analysis was made of 235 deaths either caused by asbestosis or in which asbestosis had been proved at autopsy, which had come to notice during the years 1924 to 1946 inclusive. In this series of cases, cancer of the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] be present, either as a cause of death or as a concomitant, [illegible] of the 128 male deaths and in 9 (8·4 per cent) of the [illegible], the proportion for all cases being 13·2 per cent.

[illegible] has continued and further analyses of the total number [illegible] which has come to notice from 1924 to 1954 inclusive. In these analyses, cases in which asbestosis was accompanied by pulmonary tuberculosis are shown separately, as are cases in which cancer of the lung was a cause of death or a concomitant. Eleven [illegible] 7 female, in which cancer of sites other than the lung was found, are included under asbestosis.

ASBESTOSIS: DEATHS RECORDED FROM MARCH 1924–DECEMBER 1954

Diagnosis	Male	Female	Total
Asbestosis ...	117	84	201
Asbestosis and Pulmonary Tuberculosis	47	41	88
Asbestosis and Cancer of Lung	41	14	55
Total	205	139	344

NOTE.—4 male and 7 female asbestosis cases also had cancer of sites other than lung and are included under "Asbestosis".

The total number of cases up to the end of 1954 was 344, of which 205 were males and 139 females. The number of cases in which cancer of the lung was present was 55 (16·0 per cent), the figure for males being 41 (20·0 per cent) and for females 14 (10·1 per cent). The percentage of cases with cancer of the lung was higher in both males and females than in the previous analyses but the proportion among males was, as before, about twice that among females.

In 57 cases (25·6 per cent) asbestosis was accompanied by pulmonary tuberculosis but this complication was relatively more common among females (29·5 per cent) than among males (22·4 per cent).

The age at death (in specified age groups) is shown in Table 38 for asbestosis, asbestosis with pulmonary tuberculosis, and asbestosis with [illegible]

[illegible]

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TABLE 35

ASBESTOSIS : ANALYSIS BY SEX AND AGE AT DEATH

Type of Case and Sex	Age at Death								
	Under 20	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–59	60–69	70 & over	Total	Mean Age
MALE									
Asbestosis	—	2	7	31	42	29	6	117	53·7
Asbestosis and Pulmonary T.B.	2	2	11	17	8	7	—	47	45·2
Asbestosis and Cancer of Lung	—	—	—	12	19	8	2	41	55·0
FEMALE									
Asbestosis	—	5	28	32	14	4	1	84	42·8
Asbestosis and Pulmonary T.B.	—	11	21	5	3	1	—	41	35·1
Asbestosis and Cancer of Lung	—	—	6	3	3	1	1	14	45·6
TOTAL									
Asbestosis	—	7	35	63	56	33	7	201	49·1
Asbestosis and Pulmonary T.B.	2	13	32	22	11	8	1	88	40·5
Asbestosis and Cancer of Lung	—	—	6	15	22	9	3	55	52·7

NOTE: 4 male and 7 female asbestosis cases also had cancer of sites other than lung and are included under "Asbestosis".

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TABLE 36

ASBESTOSIS : ANALYSIS BY SEX AND DURATION OF EXPOSURE

Type of Case and Sex	Duration of Exposure in Years										Mean Exposure
	Under 1	Over 1 but under 2	2–4	5–9	10–14	15–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	Total	
MALES											
Asbestosis	—	—	1	11	22	23	38	14	7	116*	20·7
Asbestosis and Pulmonary T.B.	—	—	6	10	10	10	10	1	—	47	14·6
Asbestosis and Cancer of Lung	—	—	2	4	5	3	16	7	4	41	22·3
FEMALES											
Asbestosis	1	6	8	34	13	12	8	2	—	84	10·5
Asbestosis and Pulmonary T.B.	1	4	8	13	6	6	2	1	—	41	8·6
Asbestosis and Cancer of Lung	—	—	3	5	3	2	1	—	—	14	9·4
TOTAL											
Asbestosis	1	6	9	45	35	35	46	16	7	200*	16·4
Asbestosis and Pulmonary T.B.	1	4	14	23	16	16	12	2	—	88	11·8
Asbestosis and Cancer of Lung	—	—	5	9	8	5	17	7	4	55	19·0

*1 case excluded—no information.

NOTE: 4 male and 7 female asbestosis cases also had cancer of sites other than lung and are included under "Asbestosis".

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DEATH CERTIFICATES RECORDING FIBROSIS OF THE LUNGS, INCLUDING ALL FORMS OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS, AND BYSSINOSIS

FATAL CASES INVESTIGATED UP TO THE END OF [illegible]

	Number of deaths	Average age at death	Duration of employment		Average
Silicosis					
Pottery—					
Silicosis	72	61.7	30	60	33.3
Silicosis with Tuberculosis ...	306	59.1	30	60	34.7
Sandstone—					
Silicosis	282	61.3	20	50	29.1
Silicosis with Tuberculosis ...	230	57.6	20	50	27.4
Grinding of Metals—					
Silicosis	124	54.5	10	40	18.9
Silicosis with Tuberculosis ...	313	54.1	10	40	21.9
Sandblasting—					
Silicosis	76	50.7	10	40	17.0
Silicosis with Tuberculosis ...	99	46.2	10	40	17.2
Manufacture of sparking powders—					
Silicosis	16	40.5	10	40	22.1
Silicosis with Tuberculosis ...	6	40.8	10	40	23.0
Miscellaneous—					
Silicosis	311	55.6	5.0	15	23.6
Silicosis with Tuberculosis ...	265	51.8	5.0	15	23.9
Total—					

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[illegible] tosis (5), relative lymphocytosis (3)]. In two instances the abnormality was sufficiently marked to warrant advice as to change of work.

Two cases of chronic benzene poisoning, one of which was fatal, are recorded on page 163.

Xylene

At a factory using xylene in resin mixtures, four men and one woman were examined. The blood picture in four, including the woman, showed no abnormality while in one man who, as far as could be ascertained, had never had any exposure to a toxic solvent, the aplastic anaemia revealed by blood examination was deemed to be idiopathic.

Deaths due to Exposure to Radium (Non-Industrial Employment)

The deaths occurred in 1954 of two men last employed in radium research nineteen years years ago, one as a laboratory assistant, the other in charge of a chemico-physical laboratory, preparing radium salts and radon for therapeutic purposes.

The laboratory assistant, after two years, left in 19[illegible] owing to the condition of his hands, one of which was operated on in 19[illegible] for removal of a wart and an ulcer. Further operations on the hands were performed from 1951 to 1953, and death occurred in 1954 from an extensive carcinoma in the right axilla.

The second man was in contact with radium and radon from 1910 until 1935, except for an interval from 1914-1918. His hands were first affected after six years' employment and three amputations were performed during the next twenty years. His blood picture during this time showed leucopenia and anaemia, which became severe in 1954. Bone marrow biopsy at this time indicated a leukaemia. It was estimated during life that he had a fixed radium body burden of between 0·12 and 0·49 microcurie.

DERMATITIS

The total number of voluntary notifications of dermatitis has been declining gradually for some years and in 1954 this trend was continued, the number notified being 2,930 compared with 3,121 in the previous year. It is recognized that these notifications are made voluntarily, and a reduction in number does not imply that the incidence of dermatitis in industry is lessening — in fact, from other sources of information, this would not seem to be so. Dermatitis accounts for more than half the total time lost by those in insurable employment on account of occupational diseases for which injury benefit can be claimed. The "voluntary" figure [illegible]

[illegible]

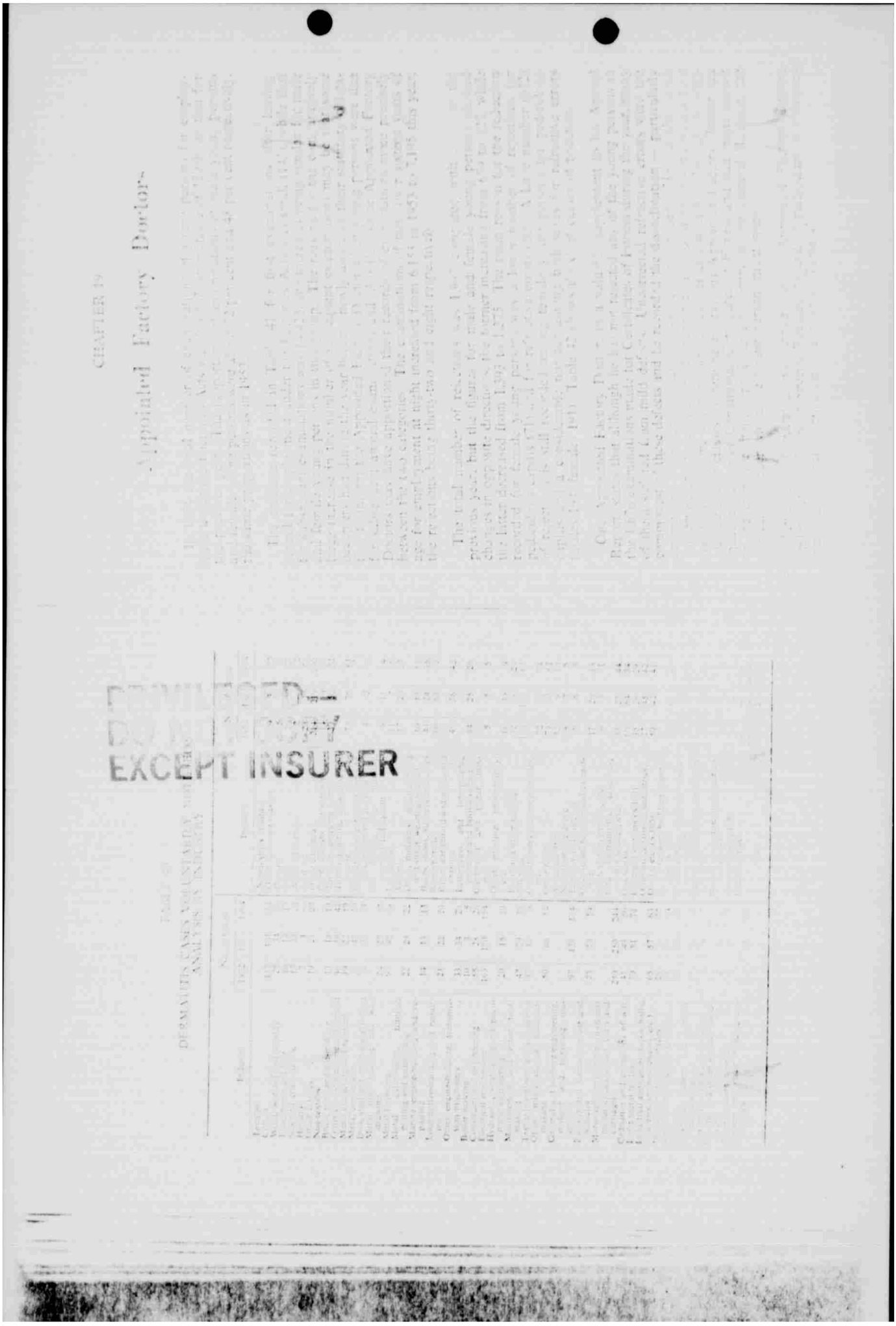
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TABLE 39

DERMATITIS CASES VOLUNTARILY NOTIFIED; ANALYSIS BY OCCUPATION

Order (Occupation)	Total 1952	Total 1953	Total 1954
I. Fishermen	—	—	—
II. Agricultural, horticultural and forestry occupations	—	—	—
III. Mining and quarrying occupations	—	—	—
IV. Workers in the treatment of non-metalliferous mining products (other than coal)	42	57	59
V. Coal gas and coke makers, workers in chemical and allied trades	152	131	13[illegible]
VI. Workers in metal manufacture, engineering and allied trades	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VII. Textile workers	172	20[illegible]	[illegible]
VIII. Tanners, etc., leather goods makers, fur dressers	66	60	[illegible]
IX. Makers of textile goods and articles of dress (not boots and shoes)	36	39	[illegible]
X. Makers of foods, drinks and tobacco	153	[illegible]	[illegible]
XI. Workers in wood, cane and cork	73	84	[illegible]
XII. Makers of and workers in paper and paperboard, bookbinders and printers	53	34	[illegible]
XIII. Makers of products not elsewhere specified	62	60	[illegible]
XIV. Workers in building and contracting	97	70	[illegible]
XV. Painters and decorators	90	[illegible]	[illegible]
XVI. Administrators, directors, managers, N.E.S.	5	4	[illegible]
XVII. Persons employed in transport and communications	65	53	[illegible]
XVIII. Commercial, finance and insurance occupations (excluding clerks)	9	6	—
XIX. Professional and technical occupations (excluding clerks)	28	[illegible]	[illegible]
XX. Persons employed in defence services	1	7	[illegible]
XXI. Persons engaged professionally in entertainments and sport	—	—	—
XXII. Persons engaged in personal service (including institutions, clubs, hotels, etc.)	79	50	[illegible]
XXIII. Clerks, typists, etc.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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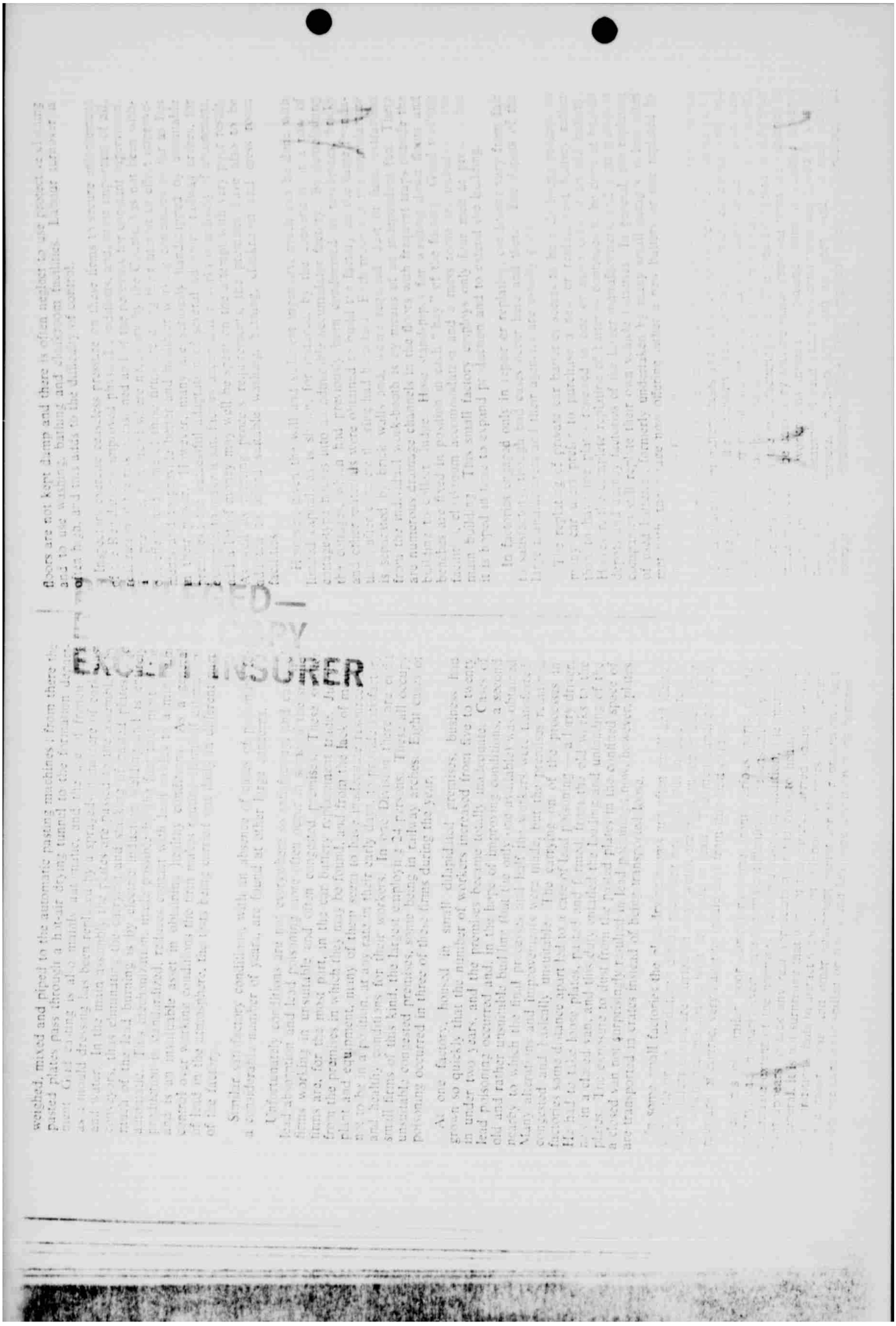
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PART III. SPECIAL REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 20

The Electric Accumulator Regulations, 1925

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The Factories (Luminising) Special Regulations, 1917

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The Pottery (Health) Special Regulations, 1947
and The Pottery (Health and Welfare) Special
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The Factories (Testing of Aircraft Engines and Accessories) Special Regulations, 1952

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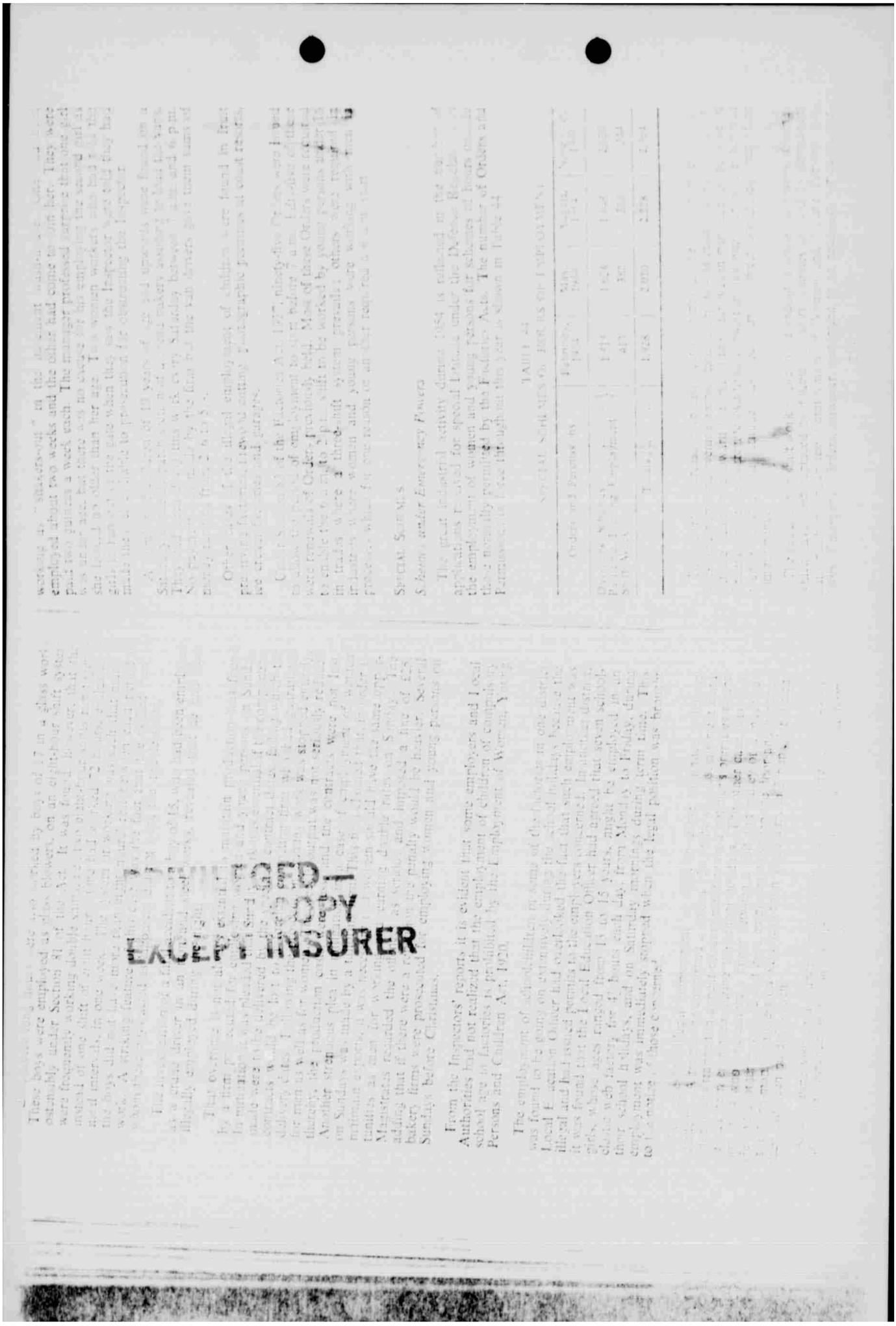
PART IV HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT

CHAPTER 21

Hours of Employment

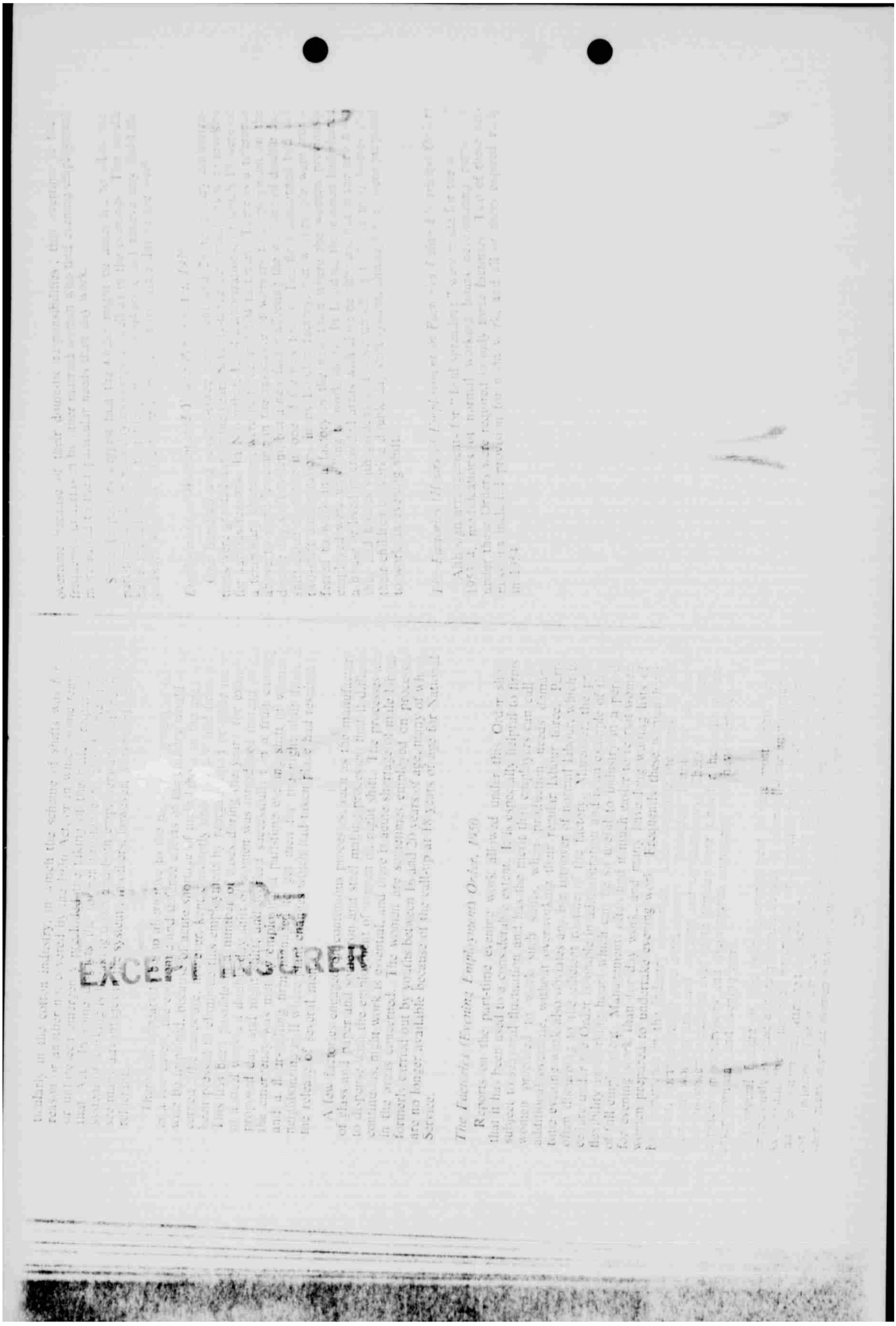
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Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories For the Year 1954
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PART V WELFARE

CHAPTER 22

Washing Facilities

The restoration of building restrictions during the year enabled many firms to proceed with the erection of new welfare blocks, some of which included washing facilities which were well in advance of legal requirements. The reports refer to many such blocks, of which the following description is typical. In a cutlery new washing and changing accommodation facilities for women consist of stainless steel washing troughs with foot-operated taps, shower baths, soap and fabric towel dispensers, drinking fountains and individually heated clothes lockers with padlocks. The interior walls of the block have been tiled and decorated in cream and blue. A full-time attendant is in charge.

Good washing facilities are now incorporated in the plans of most new factories as a matter of course. For instance, a firm making commercial vehicle equipment completed a new welfare block during the year; the washrooms are well ventilated and heated, with walls lined with cream tiles to a height of 5 ft., and tiled floors. There are 15 circular wash bowls, 16 hand basins and 10 shower baths; an attendant is in charge and the accommodation is spotlessly clean.

Siting of washing facilities deserves more attention than it sometimes receives. Usually the first considerations are the space available, length of drain necessary, and so on; but accessibility should be carefully considered, also the choice of one central block as against a number of stations. The central block has advantages of easier supervision and maintenance, but some factories, including some of the larger shipbuilding yards, have found by experience that carefully-sited stations are much more used than a central block which is not easily reached from all points in the yard and which may not be situated on the most direct routes to the main gates. Another feature which does not always receive sufficient attention is the allocation of proper floor area to the washing facilities. Some large blocks are never fully used because, although sufficient equipment is provided, there is not enough space to enable people to use it and to move round.

taps. The standard of facilities for personal cleanliness in this factory is a revelation of what can be achieved where the needs of the process demand an exceptionally high standard.

In the general run of industry some Inspectors consider that the most notable progress has been made in the heavy and dirty trades and that the lighter and cleaner trades now lag behind, being less readily convinced of the need for improvements. For instance, a difficulty is experienced in getting some factory [illegible] to provide hot water at the wash basins. Many of them claim that the new detergents now on the market can be used with cold water only and that hot water is unnecessary. Many of them, however, are convinced that there is no substitute for hot water.

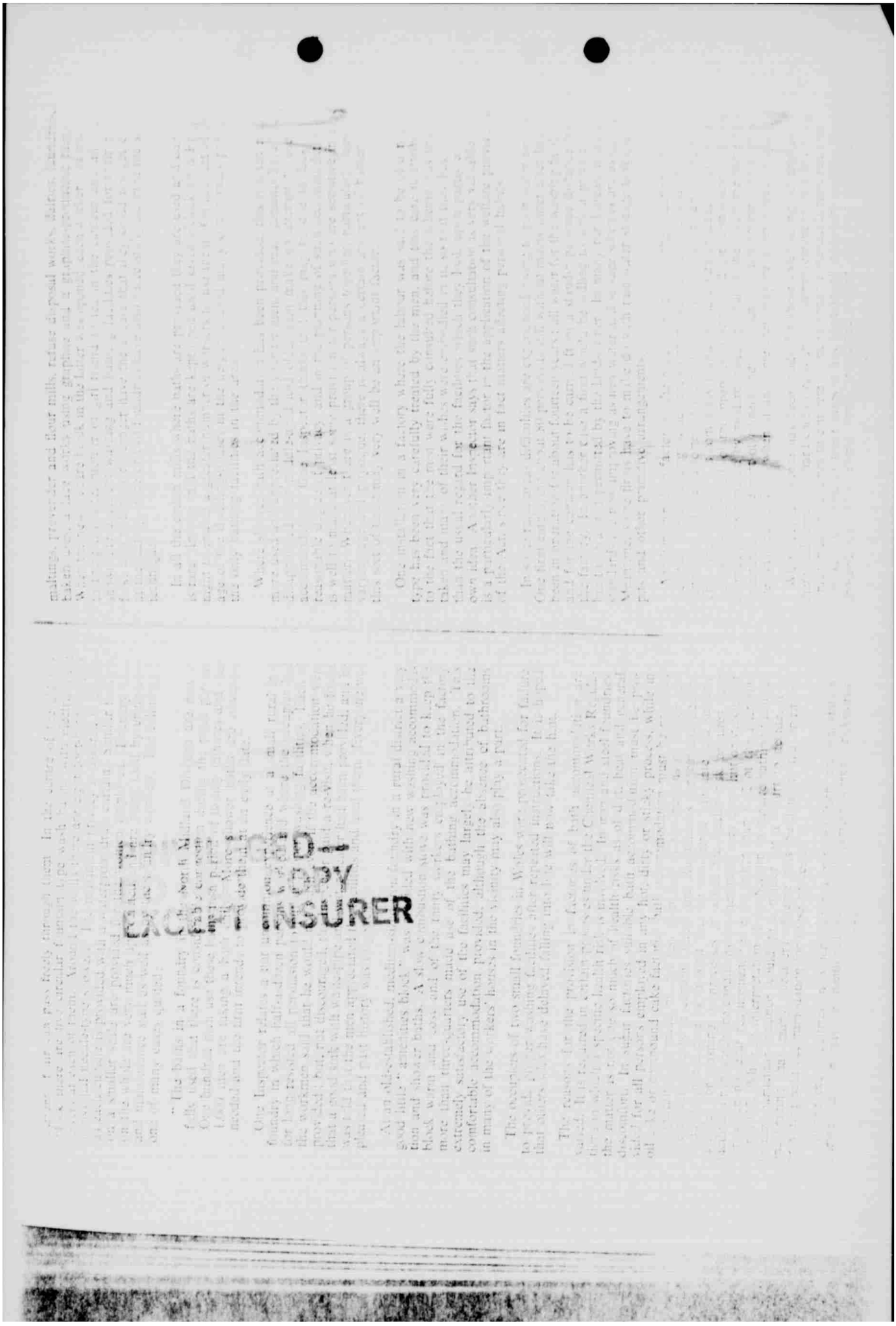
In the smaller factories hot water at the wash basins is usually provided by small gas or electric water heaters, but some firms find waste process heat a reliable source at the wash basins. While the installation costs of this method may be higher, there is no subsequent additional fuel cost. In the long run, therefore, this is a most economical way of heating water.

One of the main difficulties is the provision of means of drying hands. Considerations both of personal hygiene and of pilfering led one firm to issue a man on duty who issued a towel to each man as he came to wash and who received it back afterwards for laundering. Although this method seems extravagant in time and laundering it is being welcomed as a workable solution by some firms where the workers prefer clean, dry cloth as a preferable means of drying hands, a fabric towel. Where hot-air dryers are provided the time factor must be considered. In a factory where only as many as 50 or 60 persons wash their hands before meals if, for instance, two dryers are provided, some persons will have to wait about ten minutes to dry their hands, allowing only twenty seconds per person. The installation of a sufficient large number of individual hot-air dryers requires the investment of an amount of capital for plant which has a very brief time of use. There seems scope for the design of an industrial hot-air dryer which could be used by many persons at once.

There are mixed reports about the use of paper towels. Some firms consider them to be an extravagance, as workers are careless in their use of them. Against this, however, cases are quoted from a large metal factory, where all the wash places are equipped with paper towels and foot valve dispensers. A push on the valve plunger delivers soap further into the hands. The cost of maintaining these facilities is small. The used towels are sold as waste paper and satisfactory economy has been achieved in the use of the soap lather, as any person who takes too much has the greatest difficulty in getting rid of it.

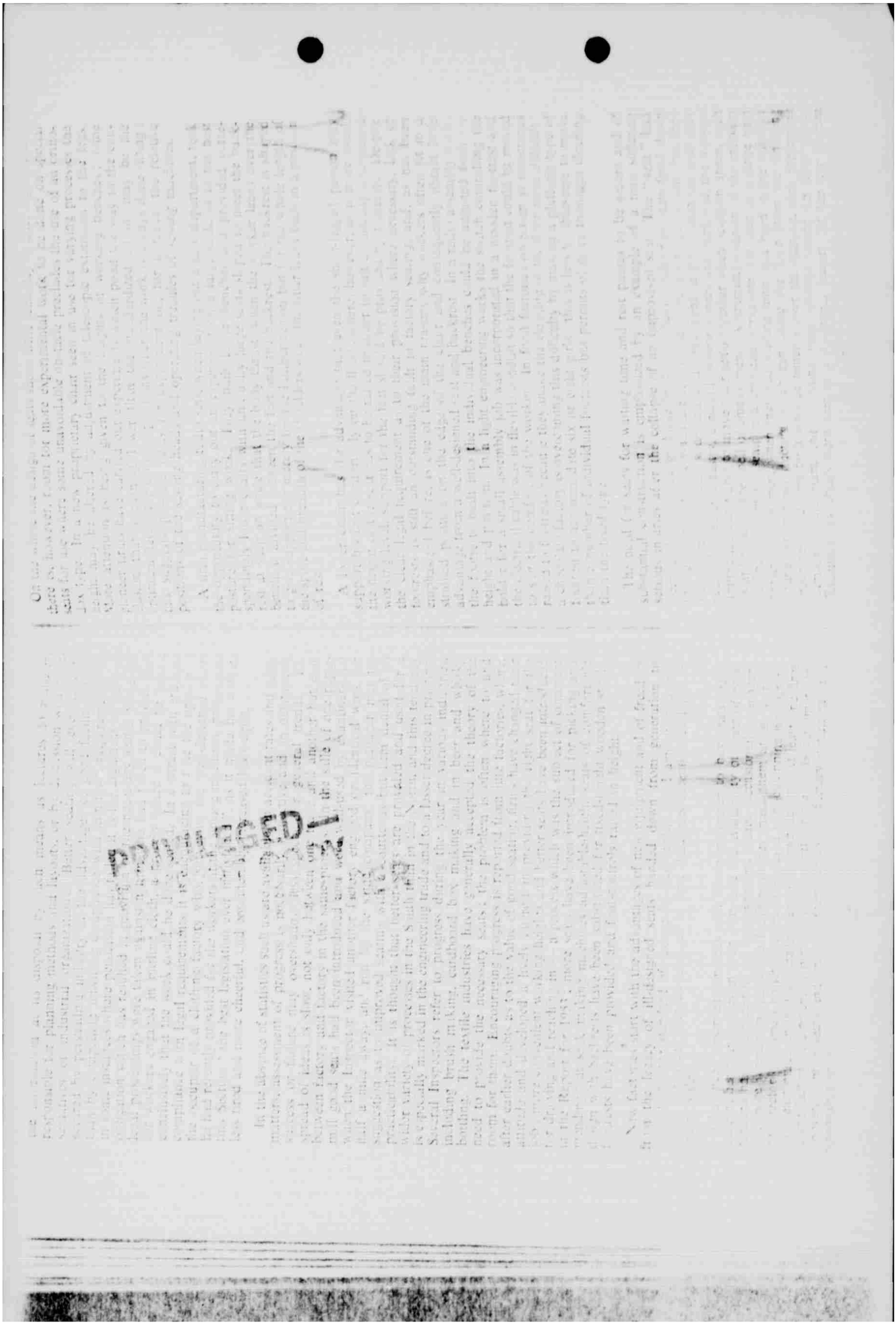
In pursuance of the Iron and Steel Foundries Regulations, 1953, shower

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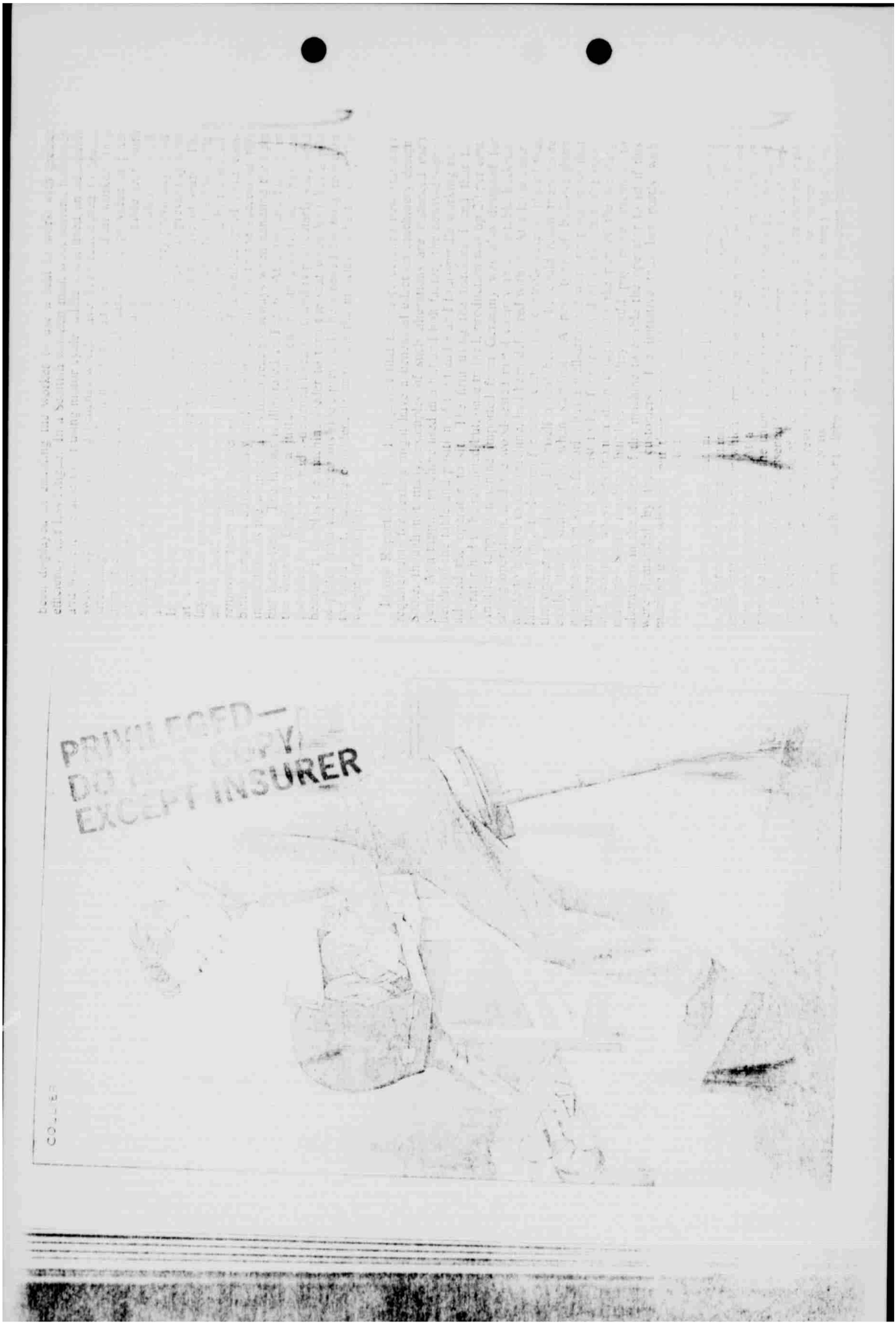
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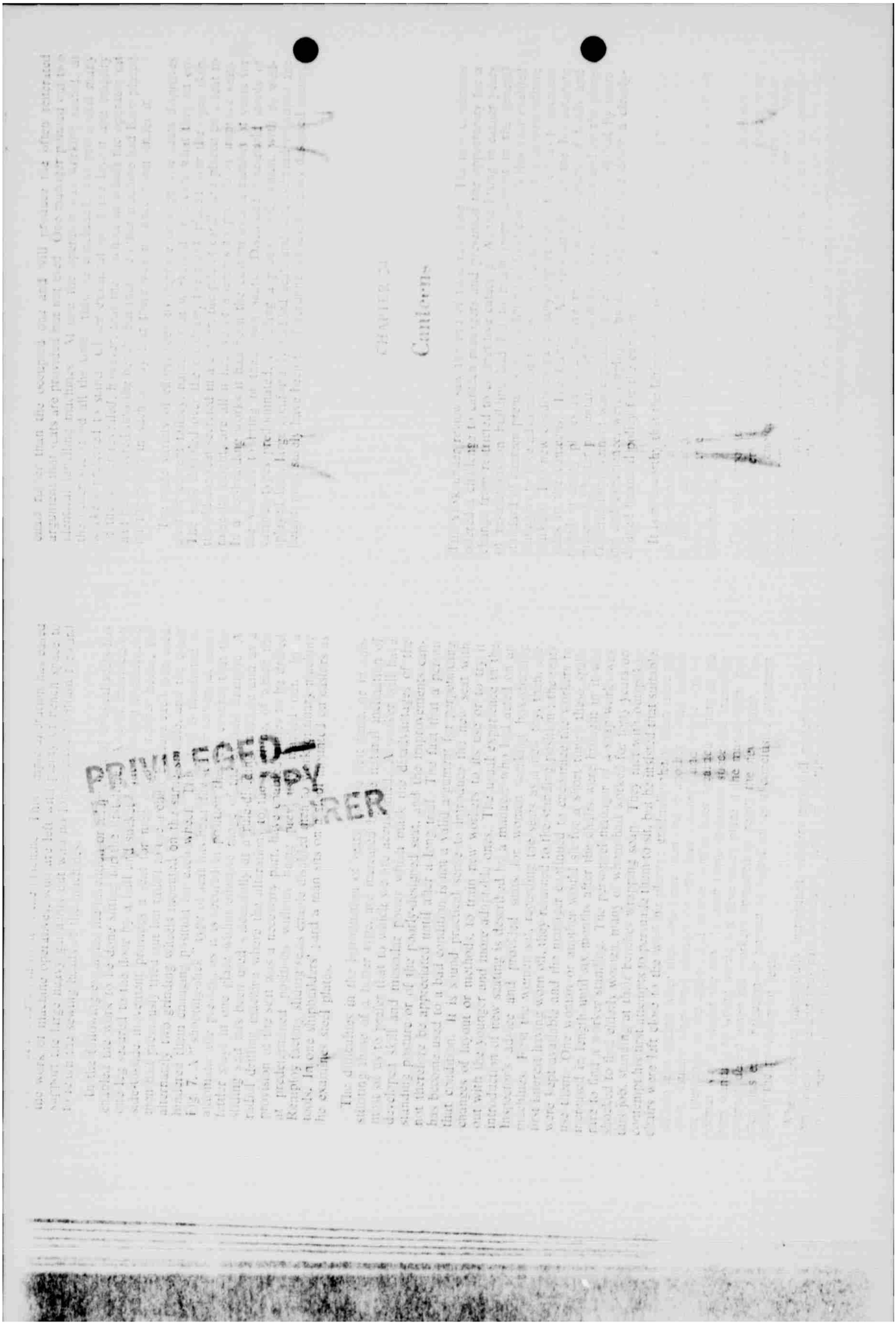
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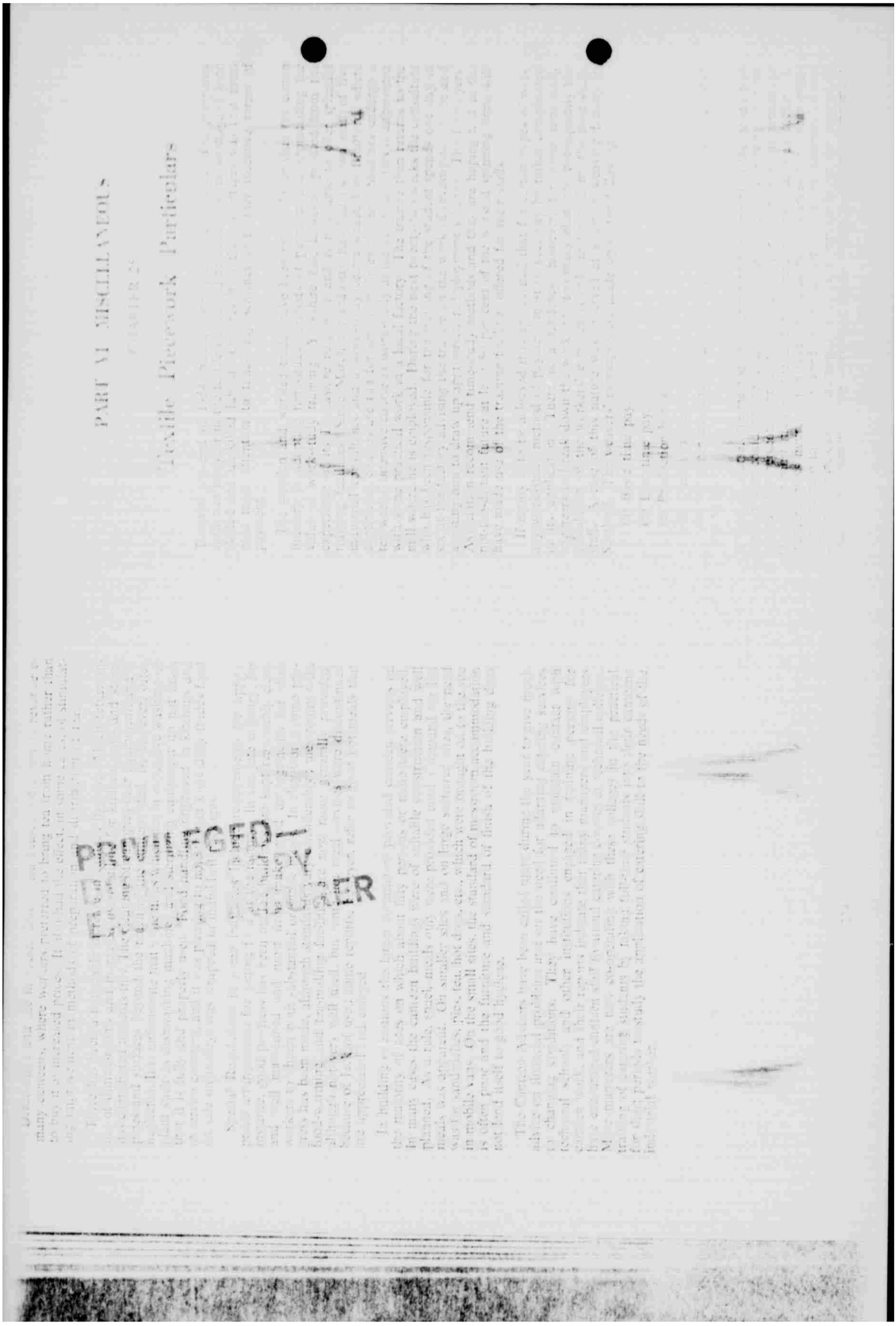
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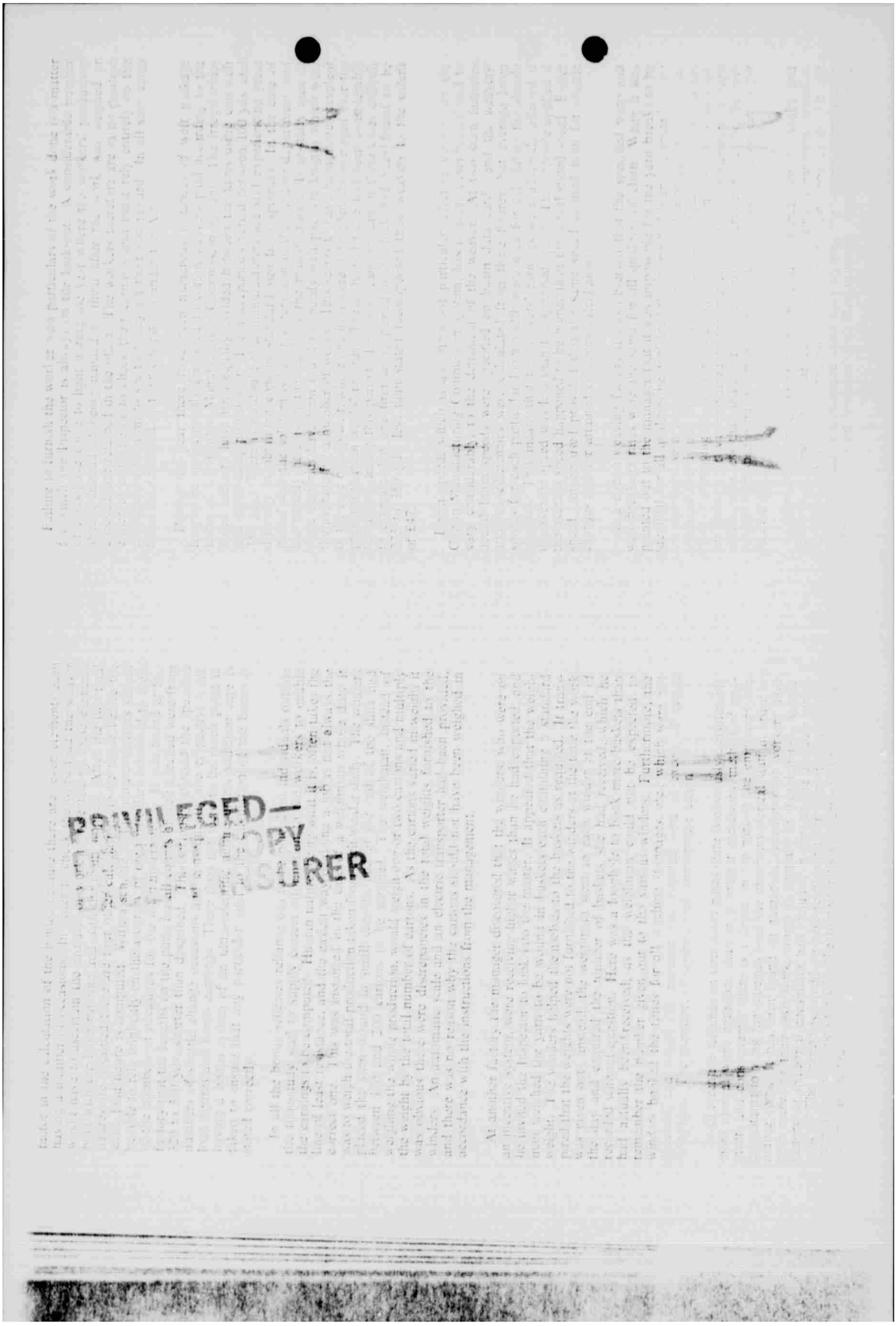
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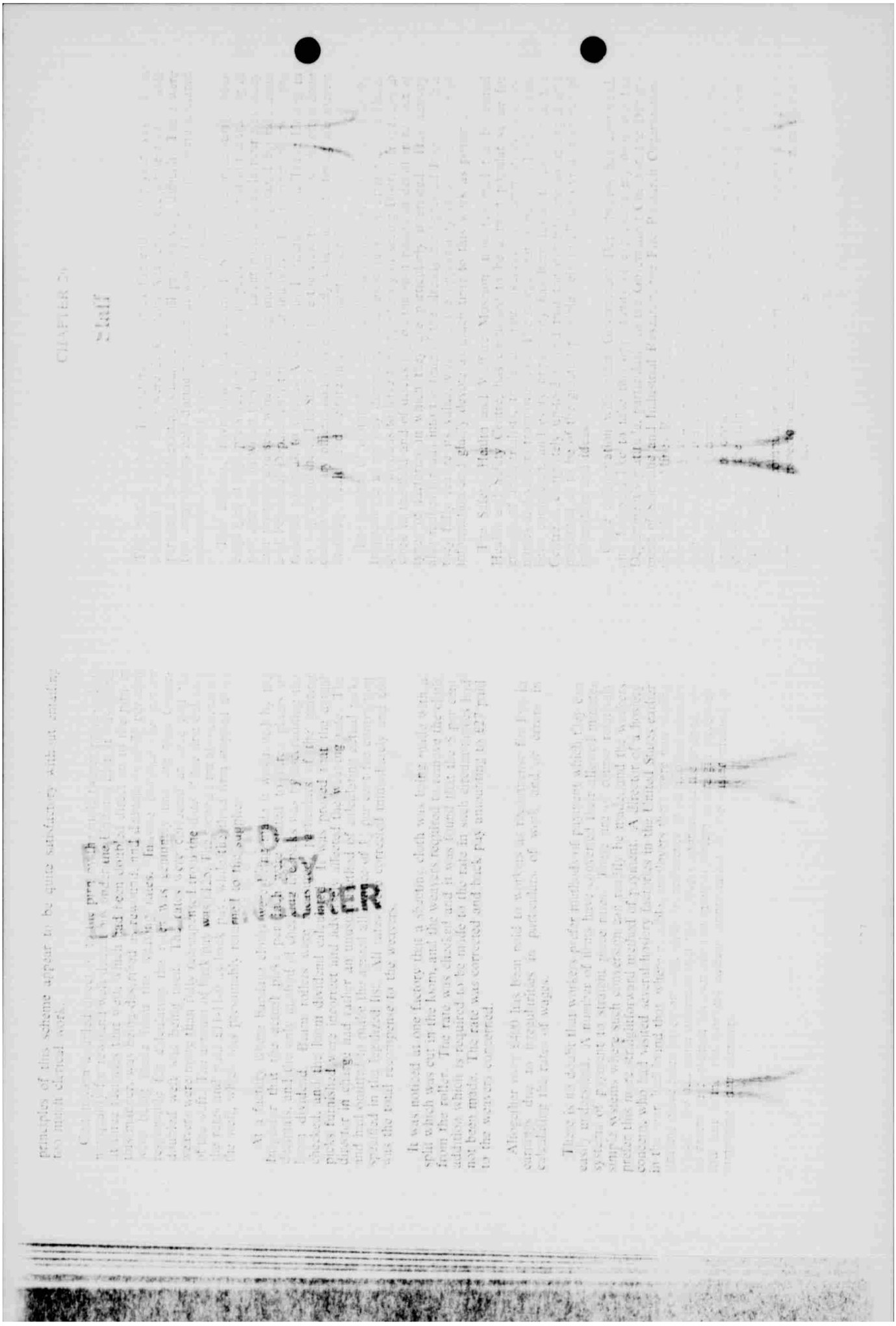
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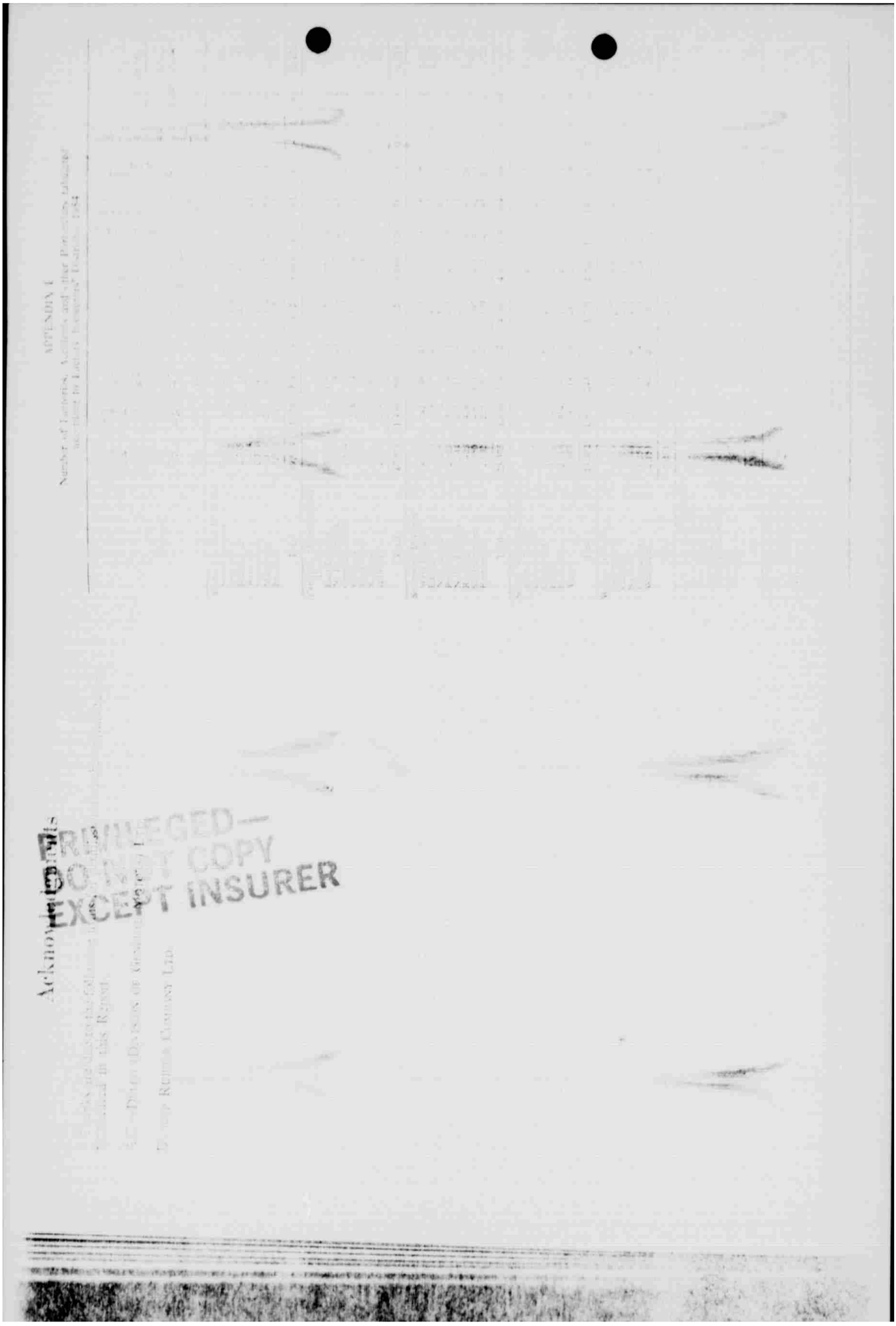
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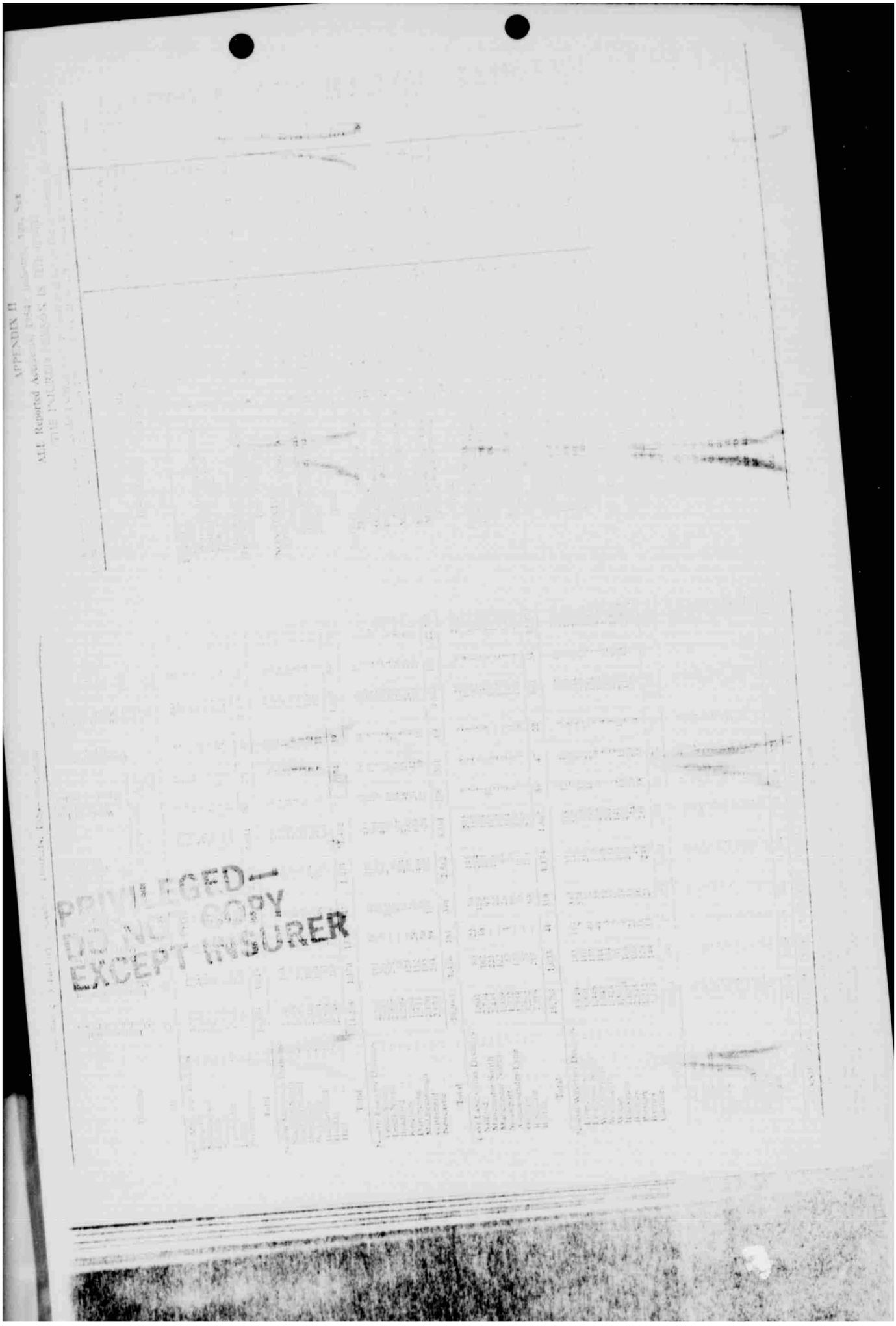
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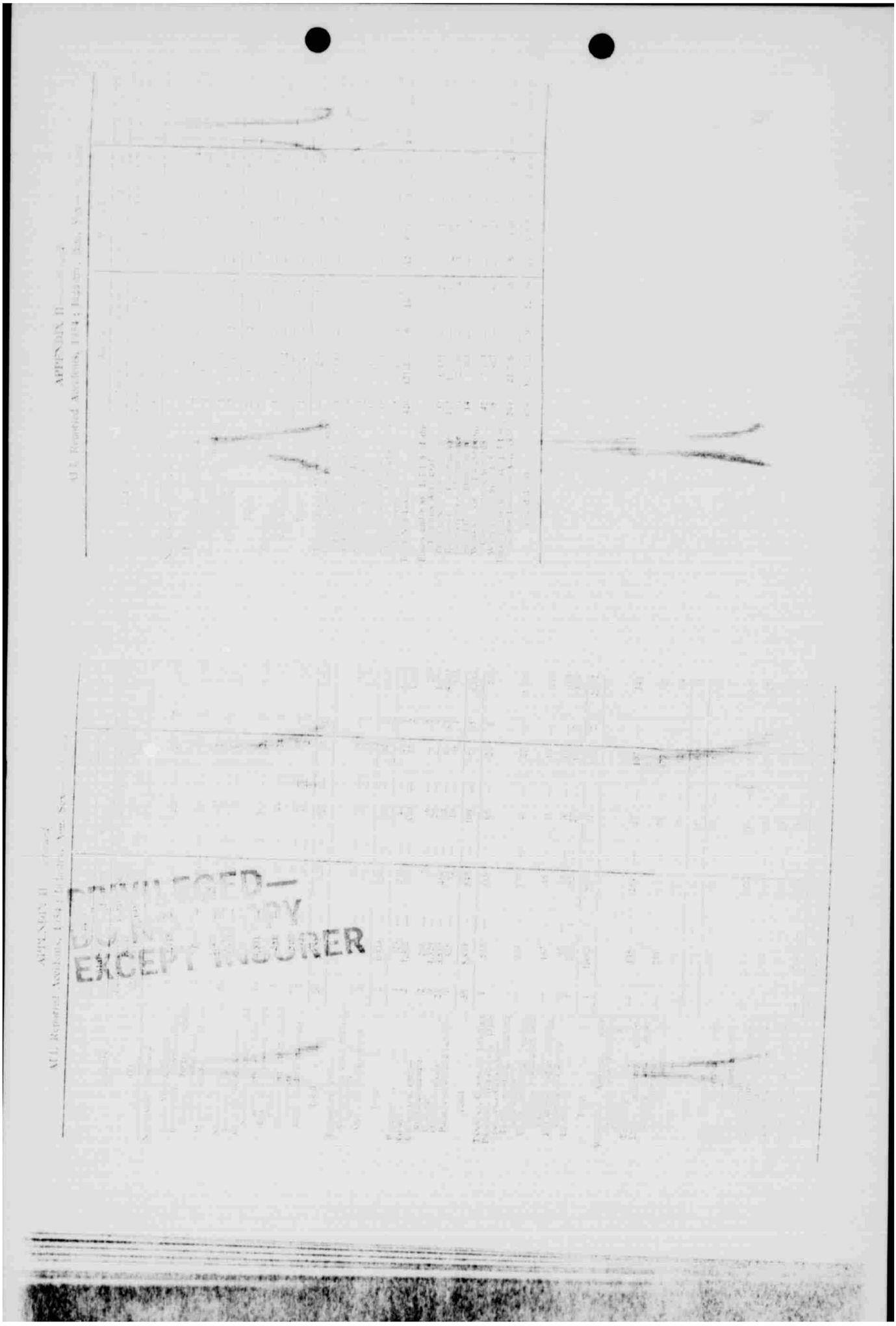
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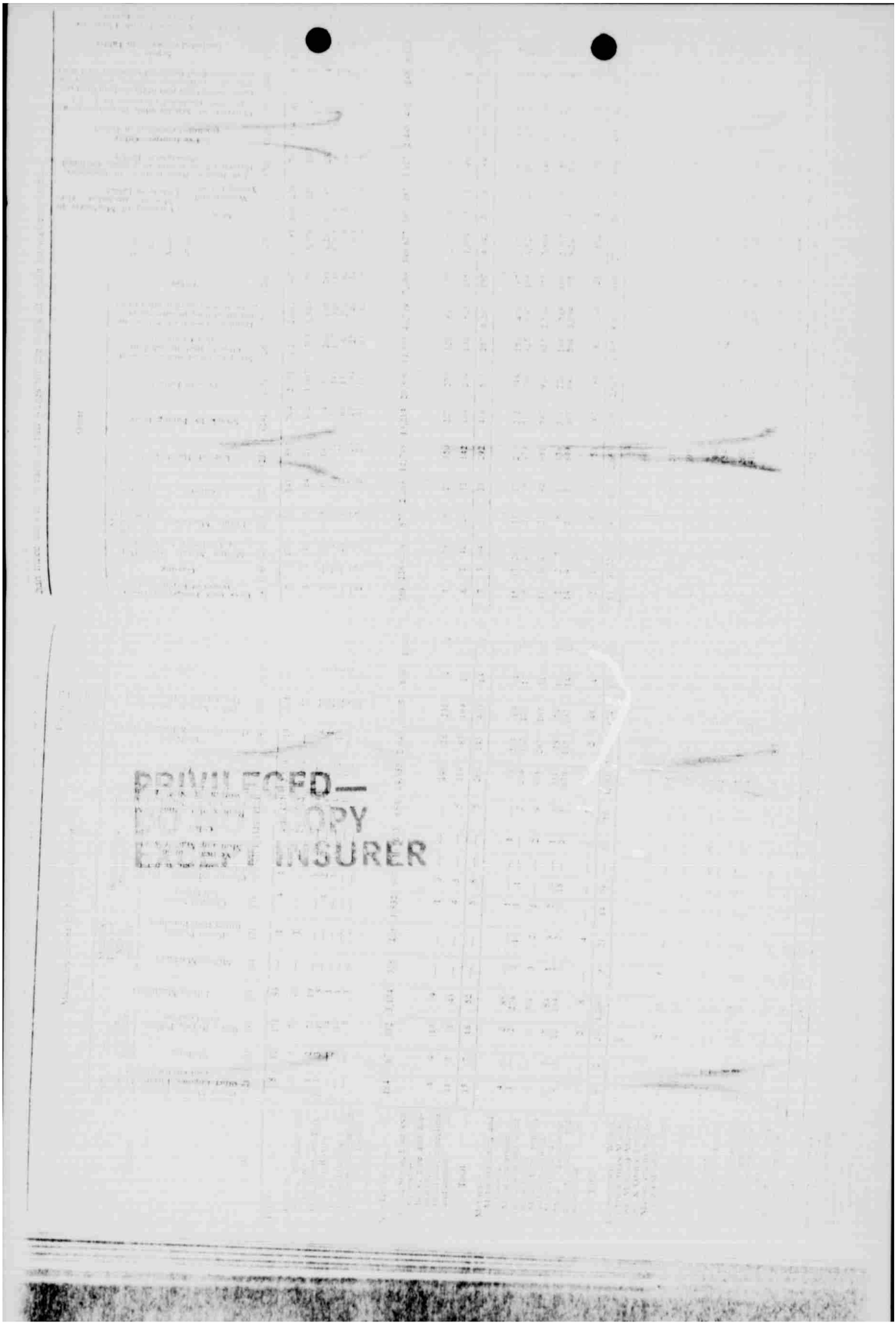
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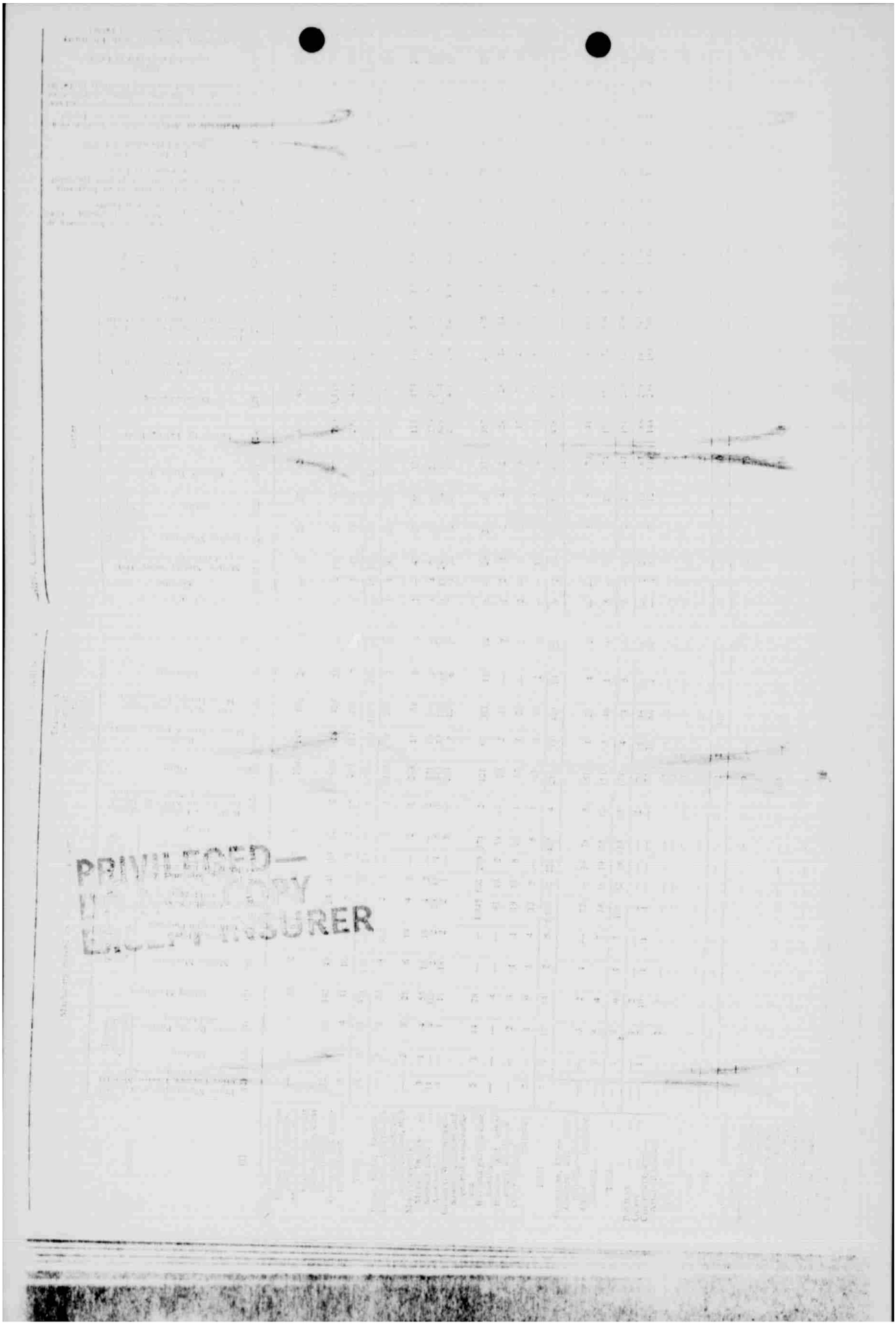
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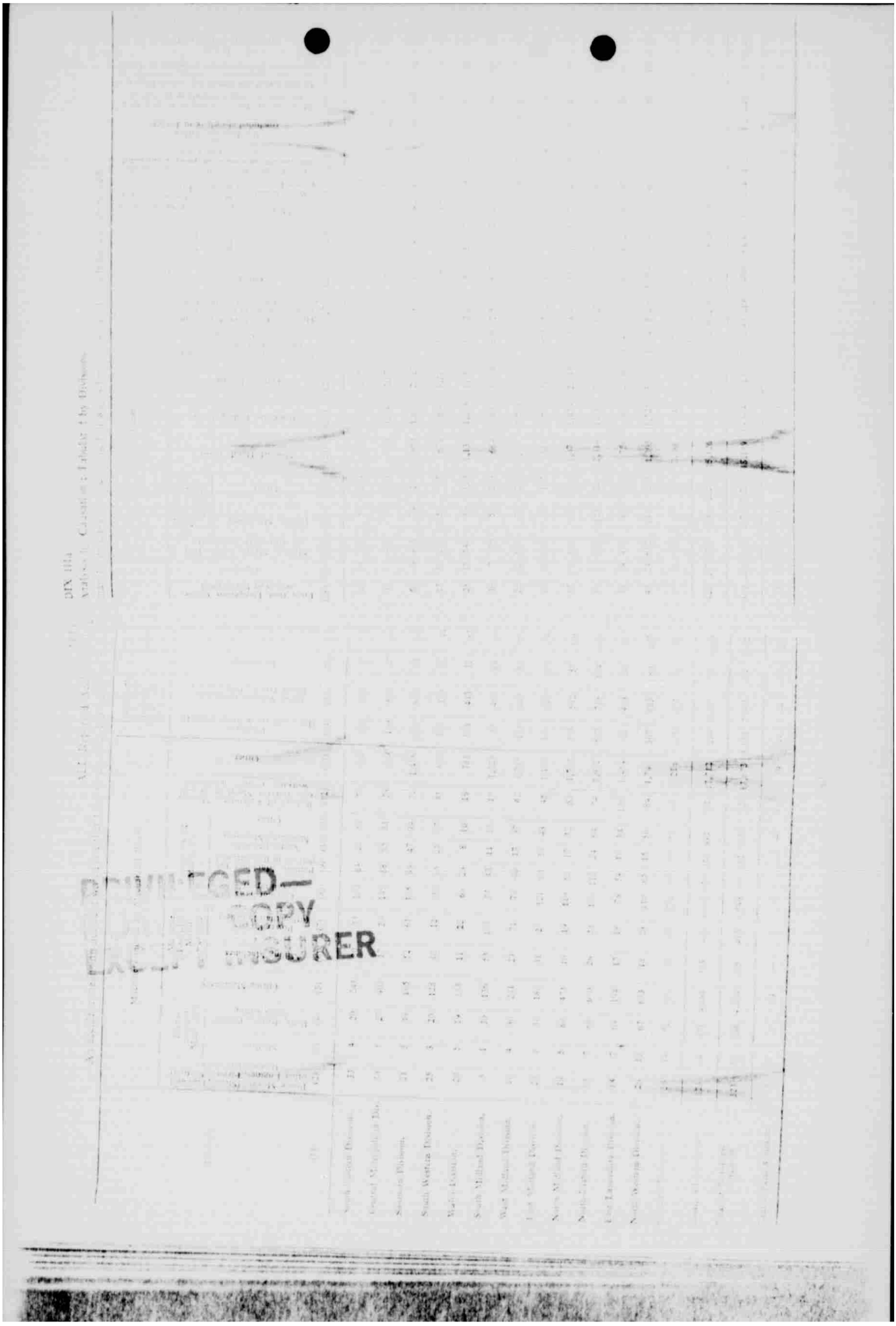
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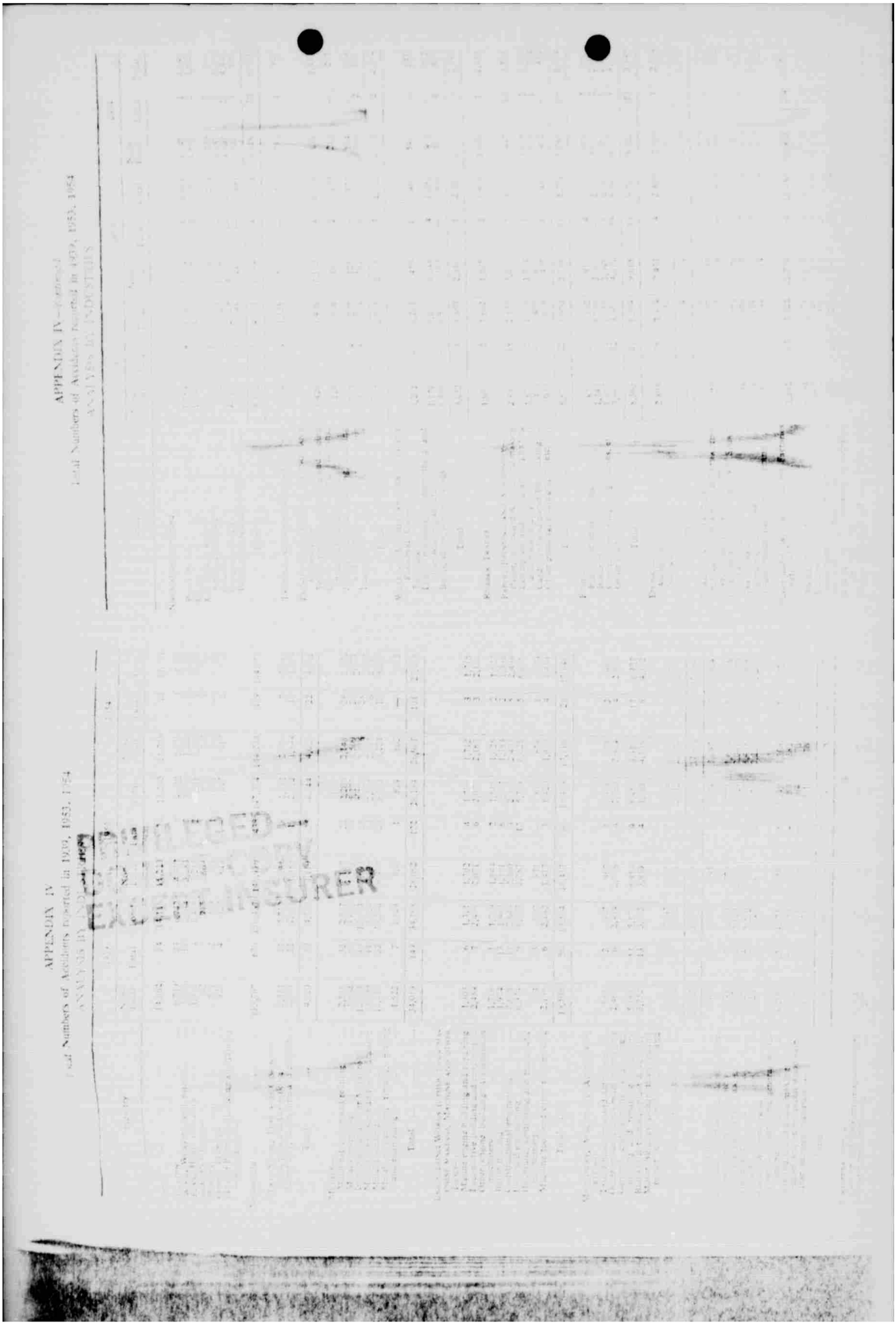
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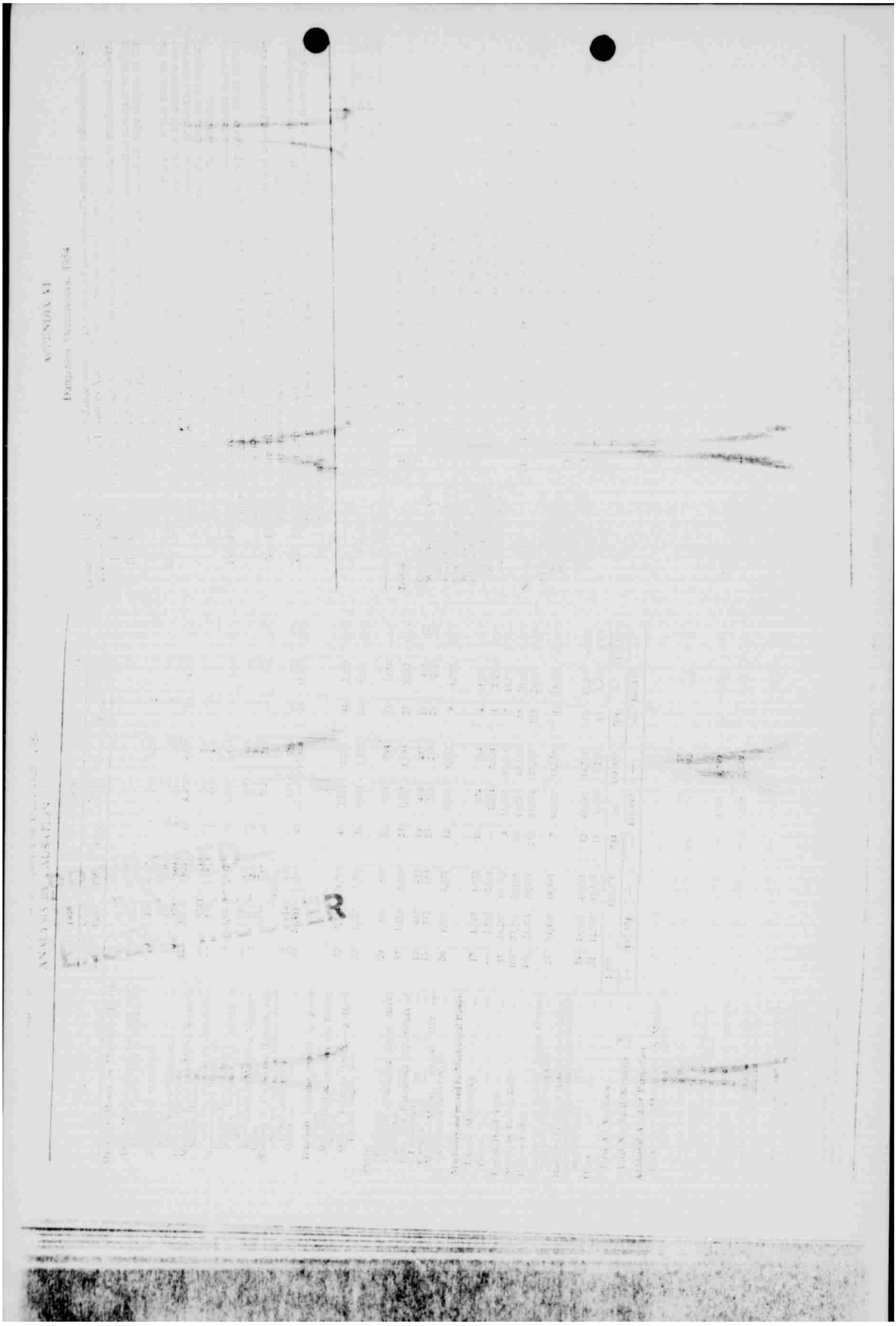
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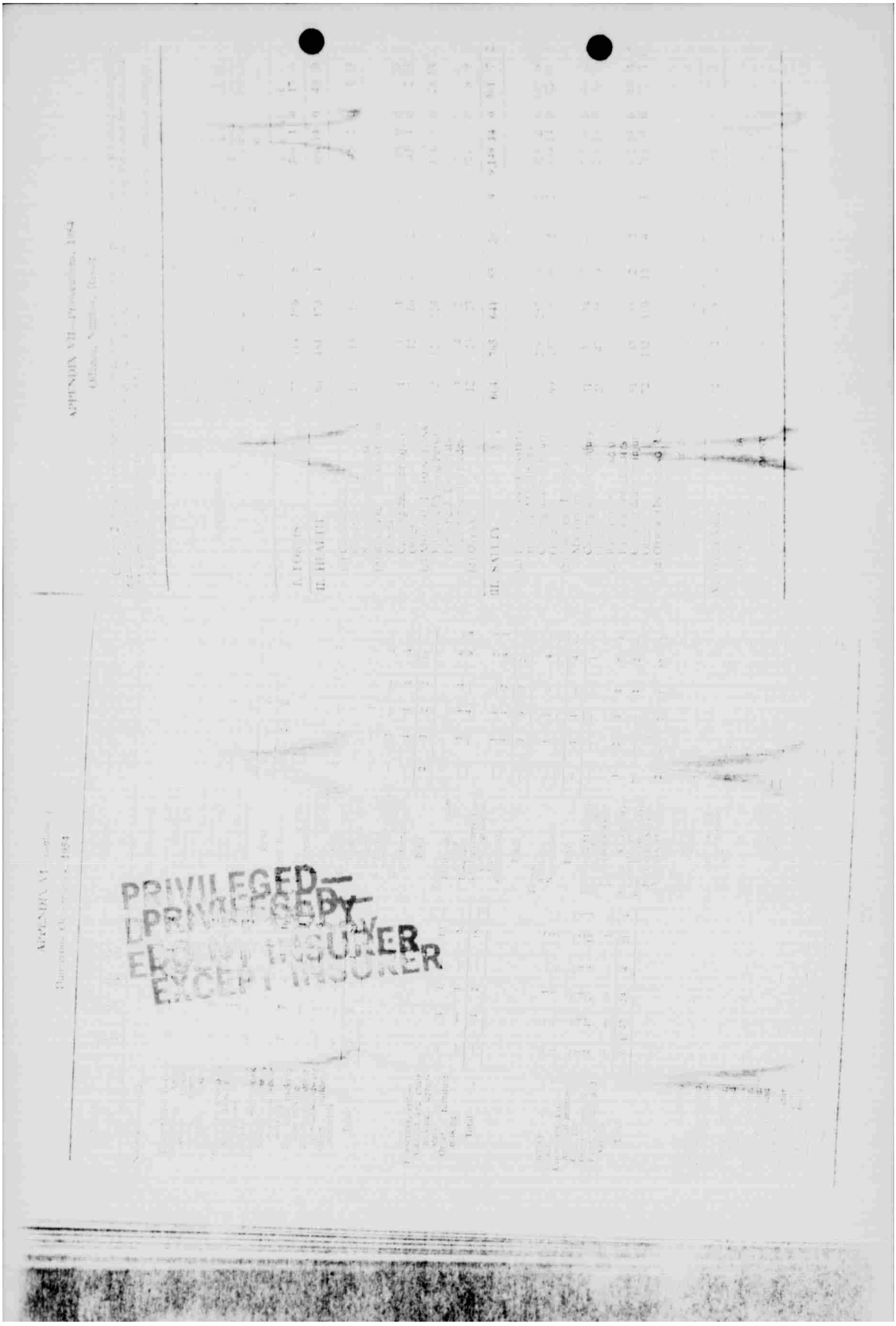
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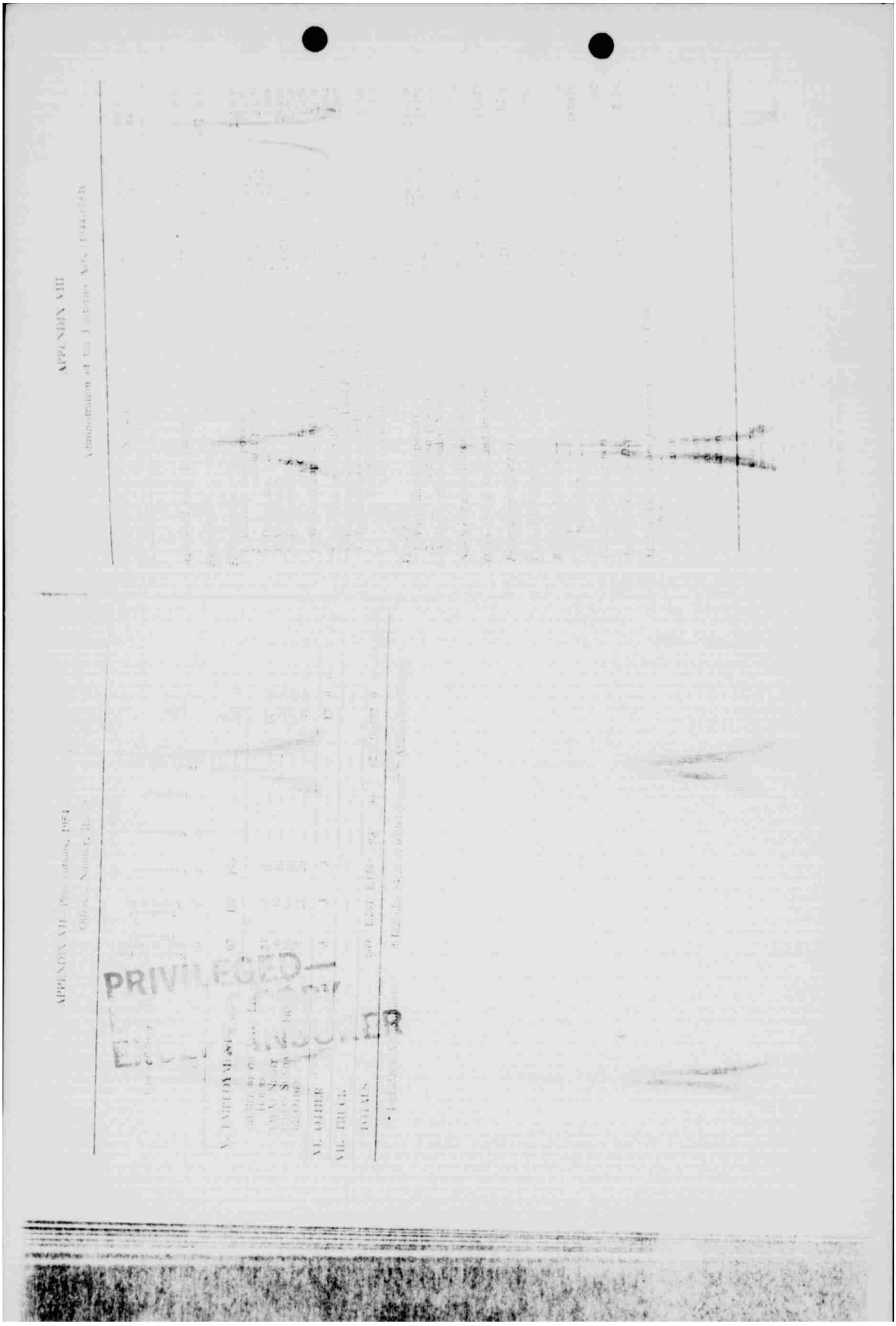
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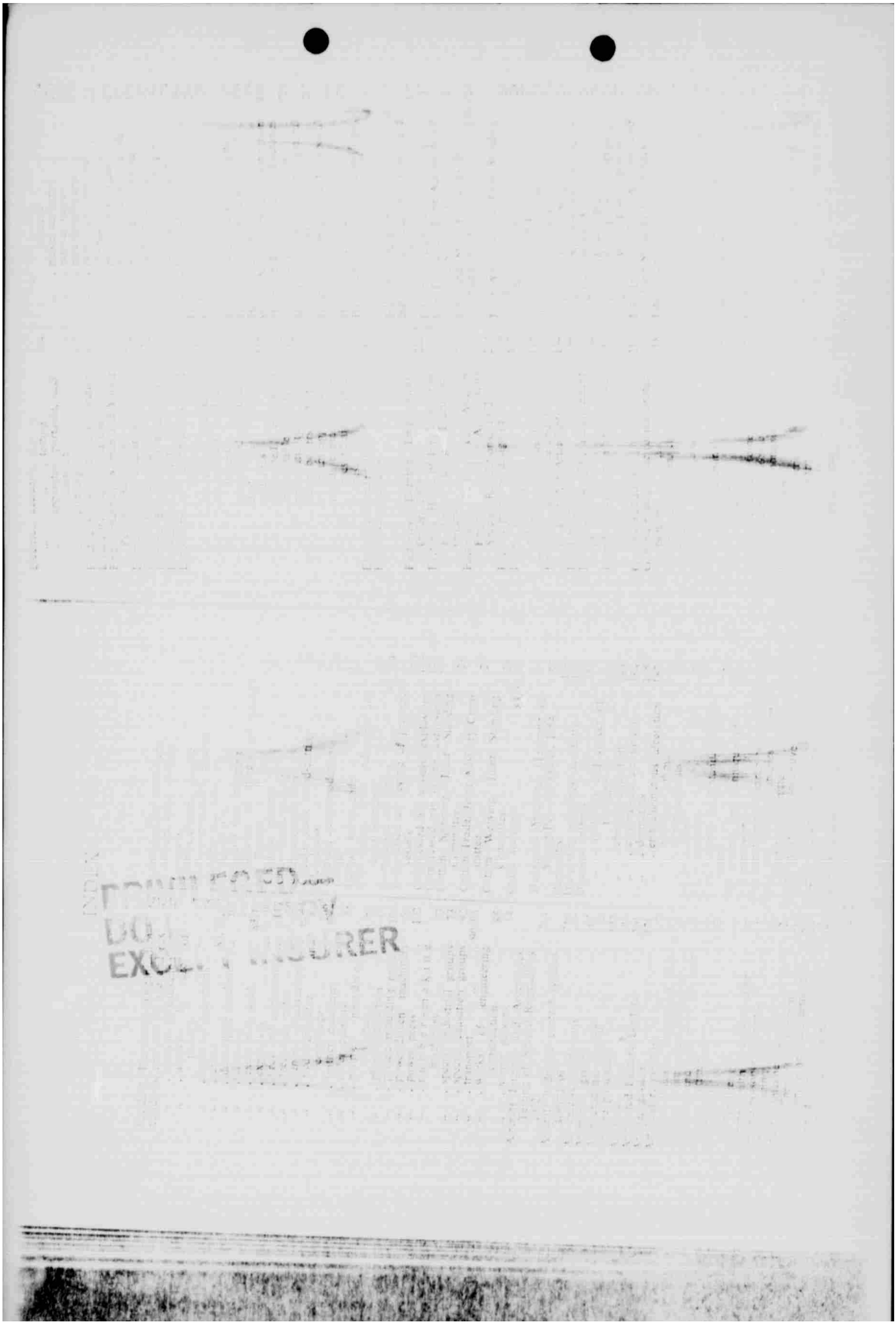
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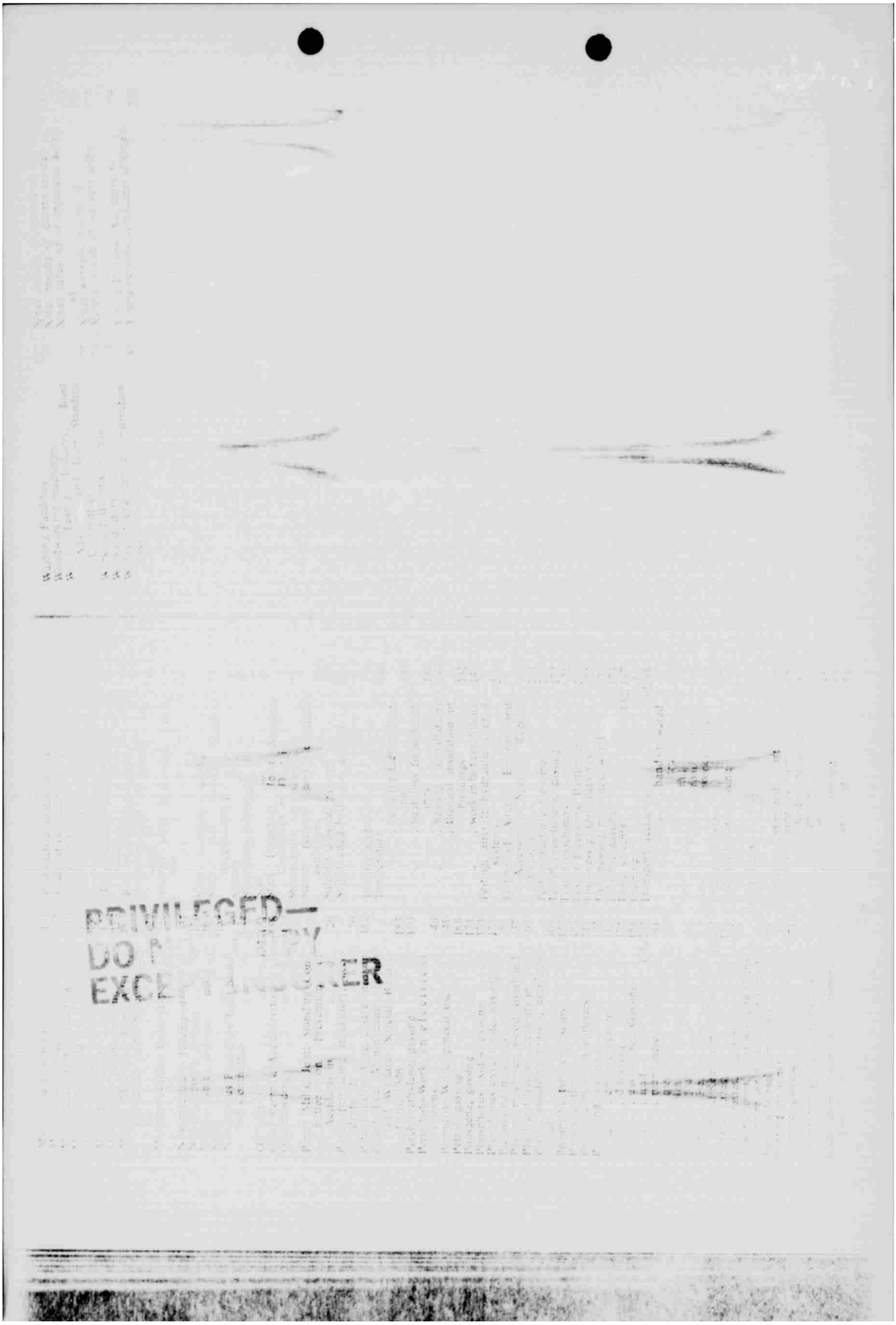
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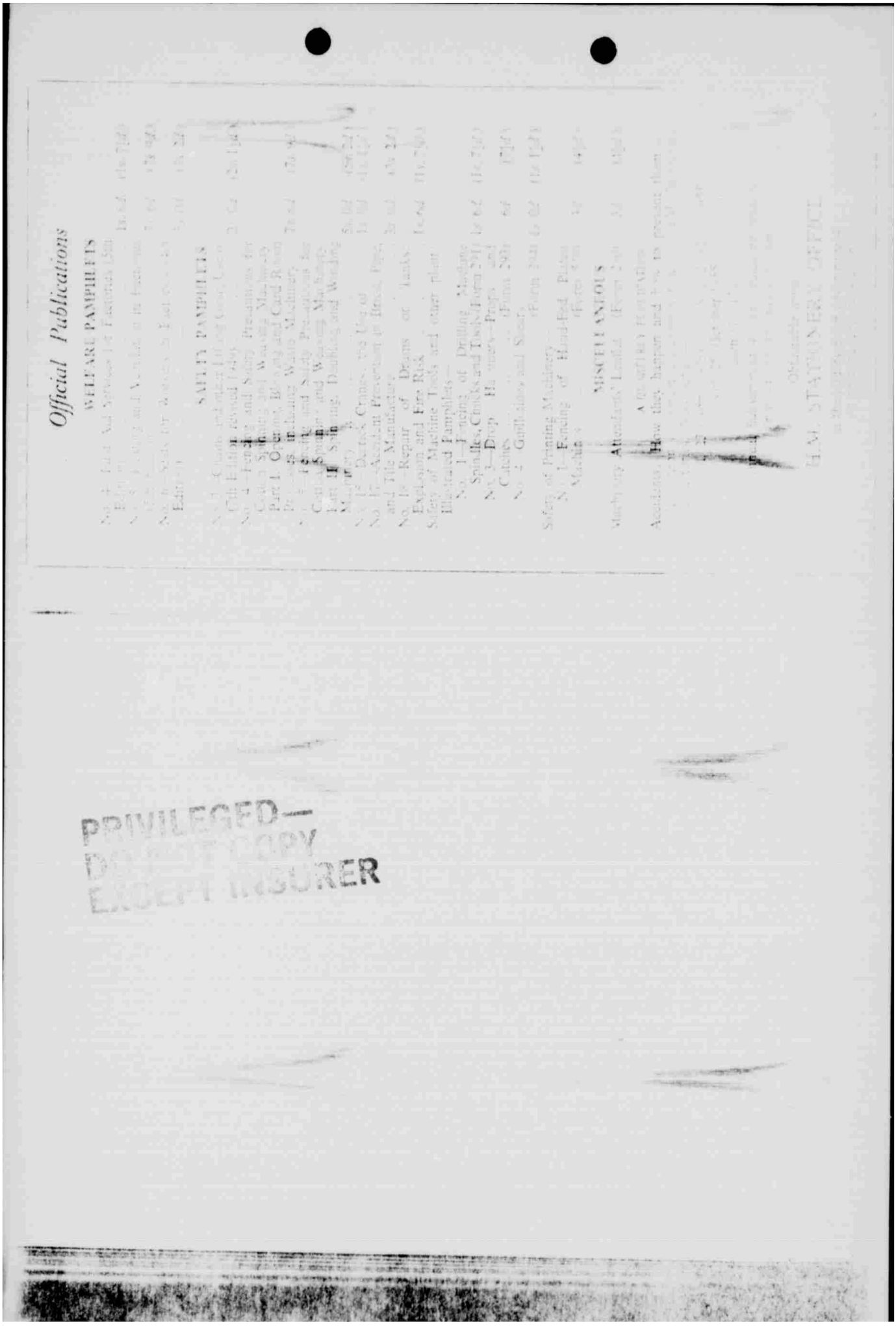
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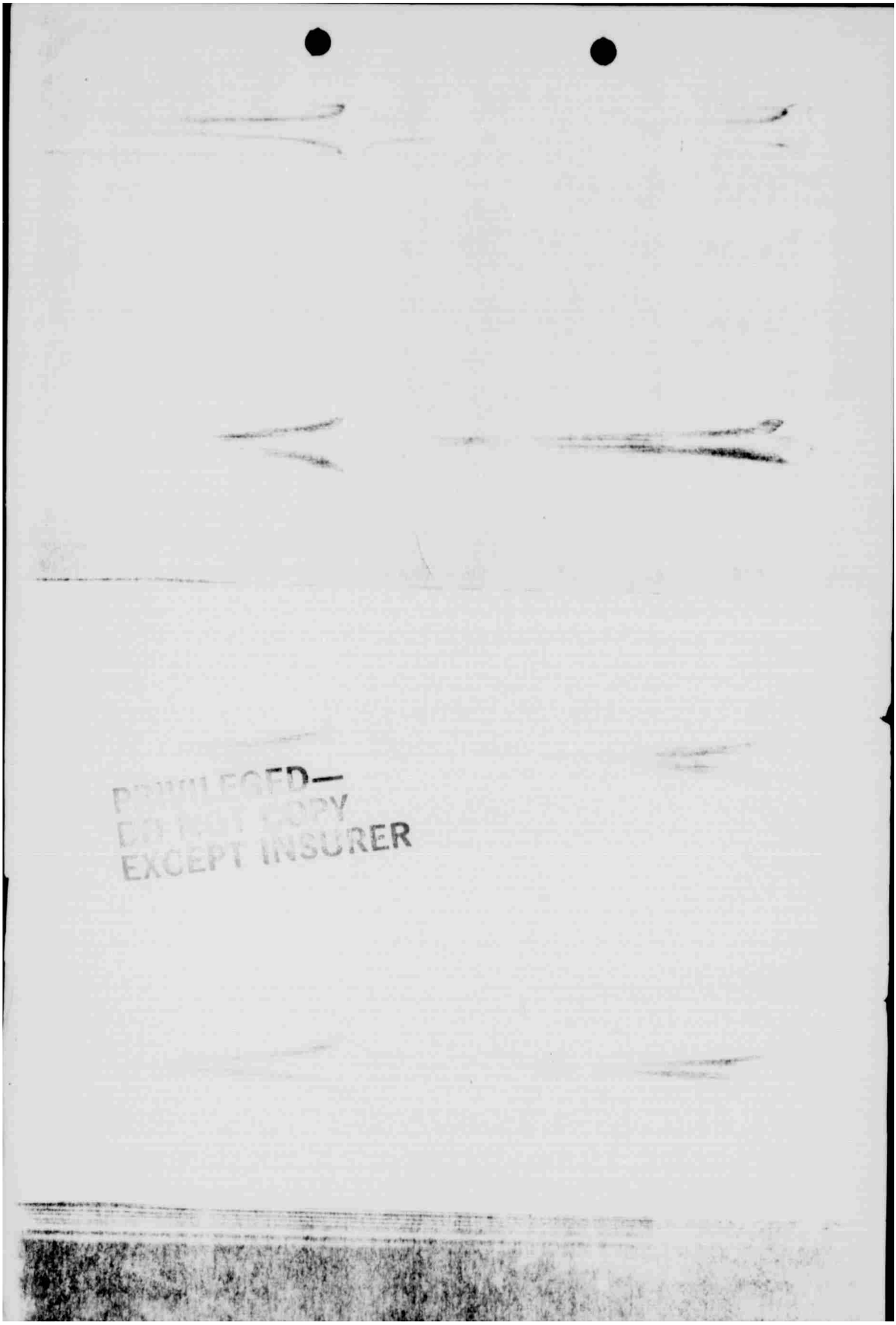
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