

WRIGHT AHEAD

THE HEAD-WRIGHTSON NEWS LETTER

Vol. 1

MARCH 1949

No. 2

The Managing Director's Letter

This is the second number of our Works Magazine. You will notice that we have changed the lay-out slightly, and we shall no doubt settle down in due course. As in everything else, we shall not be successful unless we get the full co-operation of all. There is a representative for the Magazine in each Company and Department, and in accordance with the democratic spirit of the times in which we live, the responsibility must be shared by all of us. If, therefore, you have any news or views of interest to our organisation, suitable for publication in our Magazine, please let your representative know, or communicate direct with Mrs. Lonsdale of the H.Q. Welfare Department at Teesdale.

This question of responsibility is an extremely important one. And it is mutual. It is no good if, say, a salesman does his best to boost Head Wrightson's products, if the drawing office turns out a bad design, or the works turn out bad stuff. It is no good having good selling, good designs, and good workmanship, if

the price is wrong. The whole organisation, in fact, must do everything at least as well as our competitors, and if possible a bit better. Reputations take a long time to make, but a short time to lose.

I repeat, the responsibility is mutual. If you have confidence in us who direct your policy, we, in turn, must have confidence in you who turn out the work. I am sure that this mutual confidence is justified. If it is fully realised in practice, we shall be successful, and all of us, and our children, will be more secure, and better off. Every small example of slackness or unskillfulness defeats this objective.

Politics now have a most important bearing on industry. I suggest you examine very carefully the impact of political theories, such as the proposed Nationalisation of the Iron & Steel Trade, on our own industry. My advice is—and I hope it is just plain commonsense—satisfy yourselves you are going to be really better off before you agree to radical changes. I cannot stress this too strongly. Iron and steel for our work, represent half the total cost of the work, and about three times the value of your own direct labour on it. Any change in the wrong direction in the cost of iron and steel, no matter how conscientiously we work, will make the cost of our commodities prohibitive abroad, and consequently will not only produce unemployment, but will not enable us to buy the food we need, even to improve our present not too high standards. As you know, we are not on the list for nationalisation in the Bill now before Parliament, but it includes a large number of constructional engineers, iron foundries, steel foundries, and makers of forgings, including drop forgings. If we are given a fair deal, for example in the supply of raw materials, and facilities for foreign trade, we shall have no difficulty in competing with firms run from Whitehall. I sometimes feel that our present Government is like the housewife at the fishmonger's, who said, "One pound of whale steak, please, and can I have the head for our cat!" I repeat, do please satisfy yourselves you are going to be better off, before you agree to any vital changes.

An example of our recent progress is the acquisition of certain aluminium alloy companies near London, who specialise in light construction work. The Firm will be known as Head Wrightson Aldean Ltd.

I have also asked for a photograph to be printed in this number of the impressive offices of our successful Head Wrightson Processes Ltd. in London, who are responsible for our work for the Oil Industry.

Yours very sincerely,

Richard Miles



TEESDALE HOUSE, BALTIC STREET, E.C.1,
THE HEADQUARTERS OF HEAD WRIGHTSON PROCESSES LTD.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to :—

- Mr. & Mrs. T. Farnaby, Stockton Forge, on the birth of a daughter
 Mr. & Mrs. W. Hornby, Stockton Forge, on the birth of a son.
 Mr. & Mrs. F. Todd, Stockton Forge, on the birth of a son.
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Roach, Steel Foundry, on the birth of a son.

MARRIAGES

Best Wishes to :—

Mr. J. T. Ferguson, Fitter, Stockton Forge, who married Miss H. O'Riordan at St. Patrick's Church, Thornaby. (We hope he did not trip over the carpet on his way to the altar).

Mr. L. Pearce, Toolsmith, Stockton Forge, who married Miss M. Chapman at Hutton Rudby on 8th January. (His blacksmith's fire was well festooned when he returned to work). Happy snap on this page.

Mr. A. Young, who married Miss Irene Abramson, Stockton Forge. (Irene worked in our Canteen and during the war drove, with exceptional ability, an overhead crane).

Mr. Thomas Hunt, of Estimating Dept., Middlesbro' Works, who married Miss Frena Hough. Happy snap on this page.

Mr. Jack Harper, of the Steel Foundry, who married Betty, daughter of Joe Bowes, Machine Shop. (An inter-departmental link-up).

Mr. Harold Probst, Bridge Yard, who married Miss Margaret Storey, daughter of another of our employees. Happy snap on this page.

Mr. Ernie Beddow, Machine Shop, who married Miss M. Fowler (sister of Alex.). Happy snap on this page.

Mr. G. Bowman, Moulder, Stockton Steel, who married Miss Doreen Wright, member of Teesdale Canteen Staff.

Mr. Samuel Fern, Maintenance Fitter, Stockton Steel, who married Miss Grace Bradley.

Mr. Tom Proctor, Machine Shop, who married Miss Doris Wright, Teesdale Canteen.

Mr. Arthur Hadley, Mr. Jack Edwards, Mr. Andy Dwyer and Mr. Len. Metcalfe, all of the Steel Foundry, who joined the Benedicts.

Mr. T. Hunt & Miss F. Hough

Mr. L. Pearce & Miss M. Chapman



Mr. H. Probst & Miss M. Storey

Mr. E. Beddow & Miss M. Fowler

SILVER WEDDING

Congratulations to Mrs. Ivy Brittain on her silver wedding. She is still going strong on the Screw Millers.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Miss Pauline Skillen, Screw Miller, Machine Shop.

Mr. Les. Summerbell, Machine Shop.

Mr. Leslie Mineham, Electrician, Stockton Steel, to Miss D. Kingdom.

Mr. Ron Cowlam, Forge, to Miss Jennie Blenkinsopp. (Ron met Jennie at Seaton Works. They separated when he came to Teesdale, Forgings Dept. But not for long it seems)

ENGAGEMENTS

Best of luck to :—

Thomas Lee, Chargehand Electrician, Stockton Steel, and Miss Dorothy Kemp, Leeds.

Fred Shaw, Maintenance, and Miss Grace Waller.

Miss Josie Colclough, Forgings, and Cyril Smith. (Cyril has just returned to the same Department from the R.A.F.).

DEATHS

Our Condolences to :—

The relatives of Fred Thomas, Smiths' Shop, who died recently.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Hawcock, Machine Shop, on the loss of their baby daughter.

Mrs. Sharp, whose husband Arthur died after a long illness. (He worked at Teesdale and the 'Cliffe for over forty years).

The relatives of Harry Reed, Steel Foundry, who died a short time ago

The relatives of Mr. Matt. Moss, Bridge Yard, who died after a very short illness. Mr. Moss, who retired last year, for many years looked after the music for the Band and attended all its practices.

Mr. W. Nugent (Stockton Forge) and his family on the death of Mrs. Nugent, who died on the 2nd February, aged 66 years. Mr. Nugent has two sons in the Works and, during the war, two of his daughters were also employed here.

SICK LIST

Harry Syson, Machine Shop, has entered North Ormesby Hospital for further treatment, which we hope will be successful. He has had it pretty rough these last few years and deserves a change of fortune.

Freddie Goodman, Machine Shop, is also having a long spell on sick list but hopes to be back soon.

Alan Bean, Machine Shop, got in the way of a quarter hammer and came off second best. Get better quick, Alan.

The Steel Foundry are pleased to have with them again Jim Duffy, who has returned to work after a long illness. May the future attend you well, Jim, and your better health continue.

To two of their fellow workmen they wish a speedy recovery and say, "Hurry up and get well again." Jack Swales, who has been ill with bronchitis, and is now, they understand, improving, and Herbert (Bertie) Smith, who was taken to hospital from home last week and is improving after his operation.

Three of their workmates are seriously ill—Harry Atkinson, Mick Folley and Gus Harris. May their recovery be speedy and may they soon be about again.

Fred Lacey, Forgings, is still absent from work through illness, but let's hope we see him back soon in the best of health.

SPORTING NEWS

FOOTBALL

North Riding Amateur Cup & Teesside League Hopes

Hopes are running high in the football section that we will do even better than last season, when we won



WALLY FORREST,
Forge Footballer,
by a Workmate.

R. Bayland
1949

the North Riding Amateur Cup and were runners-up in the Teesside League.

Up to date this season we are on top of the Teesside League, being one point better off than our next opponents, having lost only three points this season. With only seven League games to play we are hoping for the best.

In the North Riding Amateur Cup we are in the last eight, having defeated Billingham St. John's 5-1 on Saturday, 19th February. The next match in this competition is on 12th March.

We are also in the last 8 of the Ropner Home Cup.

Don't let us forget our second team in the South Bank & District League, who, even if they are not on top of the League, are in the last eight of the League Challenge Cup with a very good chance of winning this trophy.

We have built up a very good team, whose spirit is admirable, and it is impossible to pick out one player as outstanding, but A. Turley has scored 24 goals in 15 League matches out of a total of 70.

Inter-Departmentals.—A good entry is anticipated for this. Roll up and help your Division to win the event.



BADMINTON

NEW VENTURE

It is proposed to try and start a Badminton Section at Head Wrightsons. All those interested should send their names to Mr. Arthur Jackson, Machine Shop.

The main difficulty will be to obtain the use of a hall and before this can be tackled a General Meeting will have to be held for the appointment of officers, etc. If enough interest is shown there is no reason why this section should not become very flourishing.



LAWN TENNIS

This Section has not been in evidence very much since the war, but it is hoped that greater interest will be shown this year. The Section are optimistic about obtaining funds for relaying one of the courts, which should be a great improvement. Quotations have been received, and it only remains for the General Council to sanction the sum of money required.

If you play tennis, do come along and support your own Works Section. Provided there is a suitable response it is hoped to arrange both tournament and Interdepartmental Events.

Mr. J. McGowan, of Stockton Forge, is the Section's Secretary, and will be glad to have the names of interested people, so that a General Meeting may be called and the various committees elected. A good attendance at the meeting will ensure a more successful season for the section.



TABLE TENNIS

Friday night is training night. Wanted—keen, interested new members. Play takes place in the Lounge in the Staff Canteen. This section has now reached the top of the table in the "B" Division League.



BOWLS

COUNTY MATCH FOR TEESDALE PARK

It is too early to state which leagues will have the benefit of our playing experience this year. All keen bowlers will find plenty of League Bowls.

For the not so keen or new starters, a welcome will always be found on the "Green" which, thanks to our Groundsman, will again be one of the best in the district. We hope to start practice at Easter.

At some date yet to be fixed, the Yorkshire County Bowling Association are to have a full county match on our Green. More about this in our next edition.



CRICKET

Can our team be on top in a higher League?

The Section looks forward to another good season, this year in a higher League.

For the last two years we have been on top of the Reserve section of the Teesside & Cleveland League, having only lost one match at home during that time.

For the coming season we have been promoted to the Senior Division, and we hope to continue to do well against better opposition.



H.W. Processes, London.

A two-hour session at net practice is now held every Saturday morning at Jack Durston's Indoor Cricket Club, Acton. We shall welcome anyone along who is interested to partake in this practice.

BOXING**Is there a future "Champ" in the Apprentice School?**

John (Chick) Greagan, of the Angle Smith Shop, was narrowly beaten on points in the final of the Yorkshire Association of Boys' Clubs County Boxing Tournament, held on 24th January in the Town Hall at Leeds.

"Chick" is coached by H.W. Apprentice School P.T. Instructor (better known to ring fans as Harry Craster). The latter acted as second to "Chick," who received runner-up county colours.

**ATHLETIC MEETING 1949****A.A.A. Championships for Teesdale Park**

The 4th Annual Athletic Meeting will be held on July 2nd, and will include similar events to our previous meetings.

The A.A.A. has shown their appreciation of our efforts by granting us the Northumberland & Durham Discus and Shot Championships.

Our Chairman, Sir Guy Wrightson, expressed at our last meeting his desire to see Ladies' Events included at future meetings. What about it, ladies?

WELFARE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the new Welfare Committee was held on Tuesday, 22nd February.

At this meeting the members agreed that the members of the Old Teesdale Welfare Committee and Stockton Forge Welfare Committee should be co-opted to the new Committee, which was appointed by the General Council, for the purposes of a quarterly meeting. Seaton Works and Stockton Steel will also be asked to send a representative to attend this quarterly meeting.

WORKS BAND

At present we are busy contacting the various Parks Committees in the area with a view to taking engagements for the coming season.

Last Summer we gave two Sunday evening Concerts in Teesdale Park, and hope to do the same during the coming season. We heartily welcome our workers and their families to take advantage of these concerts, which will be advertised in good time.

The Band is entering various contests which are to be held in Durham County. Great strides are being made in the Brass Band world.

THE OTHER END OF THE SCALE

How many other divisions of Head Wrightsons have three generations of a family employed in the one division? Mr. Joseph Sowerby, Stockton Forge, who has been with the firm for 50 years, is employed in the Bridgeyard; one of his sons, William, is Bridgeyard foreman, and William's son, Alan, is an apprentice draughtsman.

J. W. Lyall, Crane Driver, Bridge Yard

Started work for the Firm in 1895 as puncher boy for rivetter. After a year or so went to work on the Loco. When the first electric crane was erected he went to operate it. He has since had a good tour round the Teesdale Works. His 54 years with the firm was only broken by service in World War I from August, 1914, until February, 1919.

In 1916 Mr. Lyall won the Military Medal and a bar to it in 1917. When home on leave he was presented with a gold watch and chain by the Directors, Managers and Employees. In 1919 Mr. Lyall was awarded the Meritorious Medal in the Birthday Honours List.

He says he has had bad and good times, but he has always had some of the best workmates possible.

FROM A WEST AFRICAN

In September, 1944, I left my home in Freetown, West Coast of Africa, for England, with a definite bias against all Europeans. This bias was the direct consequence of the remark made by the Head of the Government Department with which I was connected. When my aim to sit for the A.M.I.C.E. exam was made known to him he refused to propose me, or any other African, saying, "Fancy an African aspiring to the qualification that I hold." Because of this I came to England prepared to toil hard and fight every inch of the way to the goal which I held dear. Within the first few weeks in England, Yorkshire to be exact, I realised that there were innumerable potential friends here. I had invaluable assistance from most quarters. What I considered as "enemy" territory was found to be "home." Yes, home! My college life was certainly a happy one.

On successfully completing my College career and incidentally laying the basis for innumerable friendships I entered Industry, to be met with the same open hands, respect and fair treatment. The fact that I have been able to go through the exams of three Engineering Institutions is enough proof of the invaluable experience that I have gained, mainly because people in all walks of life unselfishly gave all the help they could. It might be interesting to mention that in my proposal for the A.M.I.C.E. qualification I had three times the minimum number of sponsors required. Quite a contrast from the negative reaction I received at home.

In my search for industrial experience I feel bound to mention the warmth with which I was received generally in Head Wrightson, and particularly in McKee Iron & Steel Division. The fact that I returned after I unavoidably left in 1947 to join the Ministry of Works is, I believe, enough to demonstrate my appreciation.

Generally speaking, my stay in this country up to this moment, has been very happy and full with memorable events.

I always look for Civility and try to give it in return. The fact that one particularly one with dark pigmentation of the skin, meets with some incivility and maybe blunt rudeness, is not enough to neutralise the good impression created by the major section of the population.

There is no doubt that the treatment that I have received in this country will in some way contribute to better understanding between my people and you. Thank you, England.

My leaving this firm will be necessitated only by the need to widen my experience.

WADIKE WILLIAMS.

22nd February, 1949.

Mr. F. J. Walker, Director of H.W.L.A.S., is to be further congratulated on the repeat of his broadcast on the Home Service of the B.B.C.

QUIZ: What famous novelist called the products of Seaton "Stamp Droppings"?

We are pleased to say that we have been authorised to issue this edition again without charge. It is intended, of course, that a small charge will be made in due course, but we know that you will appreciate the present gesture

DIVISIONAL NEWS

ENGINEERING DIVISION—MACHINE SHOP

Guess who? What happy little man in the Machine Shop is looking forward to a sparkling Spring Double, and I don't mean the Lincoln and National?

Is it true that the Marathon Machine Shop "Boy Meets Girl" courtship is to reach a happy conclusion some time this year?

In the Heat Exchange Shop the boys are getting the Maps out to see where Epsom is, but the more realistic are getting their boots soled and heeled. It's a long walk.

Visitors to the Mich. Miles "Yes-No" quiz were entertained by Sammy Davey.

* * *

IRON FOUNDRIES DIVISION—EGGLESCLIFFE

Alf. Rymers has had pigeons in thirty odd sweeps and says when he wins one he will marry Doris. That's after a short engagement of 5½ years.

Question for New Foundry, Eggescliffe. Who is the best "Bragger"? "Get 'em out, Boys."

COINCIDENCE. Picture "Flight of Black Arrow" and departure of Black Arab. For a month's rest.

* * *

STEEL FOUNDRY DIVISION—TEESDALE

For a long time the Teesdale Steel Foundry have had an ambition to melt at least 250 tons of steel in one week. They achieved this ambition in week ending February 26th, when the total melt of steel was 255 tons.

Congratulations are extended to the Management, Laboratory, Chargehands, Workmen and Women, on this magnificent effort.

The Dressing Yard, under the supervision of Mr. Frank Harris, assisted by Messrs. Cummings, Fielding and Dunger, is continuing to turn out castings at a rate that is almost staggering. The stream of valves for the oilfields has now developed into a torrent which is diverted into the right channels by Mr. Jack Harper (despatch), ably assisted by the one and only "SUPER ROGERS."

Test and Melt numbers come under the critical eye of George Smith, who moves in a world of tensiles, bends and izods turned and notched to perfection by George Carter. When all is completed Mr. (Jock) McIntosh, our inspector, attends to any checking.

* * *

STAMPINGS DIVISION

A stamper and a striker from Teesdale Smith Shop will shortly become fathers. No names—no pack drill.

Jim Ainsley was seen pushing a pram. When asked if it was his, he emphatically replied: "If it isn't, then it's about time I stopped going fishing."

OVERHEARD. Bob Raine complaining he'd have to buy a new tie. The one he's wearing is too tight.

There's not only the spindles getting the hammer. A couple of well-known Smith Shop dog fans don't love bookies so much these days. Let's hope your luck changes, lads. Maybe you had better take up darts—which brings to mind, A Challenge from Seaton (Stampings):—

"They have dart players at Teesdale, so what about taking on our team some night?"

Challenge accepted, Seaton. Please contact our Darts Captain, Bill Pearson, so that the match may be arranged.

Joe Lumley is now able to see in the daytime. He has now overcome the effect of the owl's blood transfusion recently administered. Welcome to the day shift, Joe.

STAMPEROSIS (Seaton)

A Stamp shop's not the most suitable place
To sleep or pass away time,
For apart from the noise and the flames in one's face,
There are also the fumes and the grime.
So a visitor making a tour of the shop
Was struck by the pace of the men—
After making a forging with scarcely a stop
They would make one all over again.
Wondering at the mental make-up of men in this trade
He called to a stamper named Phelps,
"Do you think if I tried that I'd make the grade?"
He answered, "You don't HAVE to be mad—but
it helps."

Under no spreading chestnut tree
Old Teesdale Smithy stands,
And forgings fly to right and left
From Oscar's blistered hands;
And some are good and some are scrap,
But some just "beat the band."
There's Frankland and there's Freddy Close
And Burke and Stephens's (two),
And him who's never "offset,"
To complete this motley crew.
Now stampers are a different clan,
And all who know can guess
What Tommy Allan and his mates
Think of the three-ton press,
Of "Grand old men" we have our share,
Like "All night" Dido and Jesse,
Who've played the game for many a year
And now deserve a rest.
So tip your caps, give credit due
To all who truly serve,
From highest to the humblest
Of those who praise deserve.

ANON.

STOCKTON FORGE

A Male Voice Choir has been formed at Stockton Forge, with approximately forty members. The Choirmaster is Mr. B. Brewis, and the Choir meets every Thursday for practice. If anyone happens to be passing the Works on Thursday evening and hears unusual noises don't be alarmed. It is probably only the Choir rendering "Comrades in Arms."

Extract from "SPOTLIGHT," the magazine of the Richard Hind Boys Secondary School:—"The usual visits to various local Works have been made during the year by the senior boys. Stockton Forge remains the most popular, as the boys are allowed to inspect the Canteen as well."

Is it true that Albert Smith is going to take the matrimonial plunge? Careful now, Albert.

How about Dave Gould and Albert Ord having a "go" in the matrimonial stakes, otherwise they will be left at the post.

We understand that our "polite" foreman has taken up gardening as a hobby. May he have cabbages as big as purifier covers.

FORGERY?

Mr. SMITH was invited to spend the weekend in MERRYWEATHER at BLAKEY LODGE, the home of Mr. DAGLISH. The holiday included riding on a grand HUNTER through the DALE, along the SHAW of the lake, where he saw a REDHEAD at the FORD, and heard the HERONS COLLING. He saw GOLL-OGGLY and said "HOWE are all your sons, THOM, STEPHEN, JACK, RICHARD, EDMOND and ALDER?" He saw his prize SOW-ER-BY the sty, which WASS too YOUNG for the KITCHING larder. He also met BRADLEY, who was a gay young dog, often in a ROW-LANDS home all hours, after digging for GOULD.

The best time was at night in the private bar, where one could have as many GILL(s) as one liked. The witch's BREW-IS BROWN ale, all on the SLATE(r).

The BUTLER, JENNINGS, a NUGENT said, "The atmosphere in here is FAWELL. Come on SMITH to your WARD-ELL, you're drunk," and he didn't care a tinker's CUSS-ON saying good-bye.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

We have all been waiting for the birth of "WRIGHT AHEAD" and I feel honoured to contribute a few lines to this splendid magazine. First, I would like to tell you of a little incident that occurred some two years ago, when I was lucky enough to win first prize for my potatoes in Head Wrightson's Show. I was asked by several people the name of the seed I had used and informed them that it was "HEAD-RID." As no one had heard of such a name I explained that they were the "riddance" from the Canteen which I had been offered, and which I had taken and set in my allotment. Like everything produced from Head Wrightson they turned out to be the best in the world. Now I would like to say a few words about the Maintenance Department, to which I belong, and their efforts towards production. First, we are very fortunate to have such a craftsman as Mr. Moffitt, who designed the Gas Heaters for No. 1 Welding Plant and converted the Presses from Accumulator to Electric individual drive, especially the "Rice" Press, the design for which he is solely responsible, and which in some cases has trebled its production. There are many other improvements which could be mentioned.

Fred Shaw and Fred Wright deserve praise for their workmanship on the Presses. We must also pay tribute to the Management and Directors for all the new machinery and buildings they have installed throughout the Works, thus enabling Head Wrightson to compete in the markets of the world and so keeping the employment flag flying on Tees-side. It is up to all of us to do our best in the cause of production. (C.M.)

* * *

H.W. MACHINE CO.

PROJECTS PRESENT AND FUTURE

It is probable that amongst those employed in our Group of Companies there are some who have not had the opportunity, or should I say the privilege (?) of visiting our Works at Middlesbrough and who wonder what are the products of the Head Wrightson Machine Company.

In this first article it is perhaps appropriate to give a brief summary of our activities at Middlesbrough and leave for some future issue a description of some item of equipment which is of special interest.

After the iron ore, handled on equipment provided by Stockton Forge, is converted into iron and then into steel by Blast Furnaces and Metal Mixers, designed by the McKee Iron & Steel Division and built by the Engineering Division, it may be rolled into sections or plates on equipment built by H.W.M.

These sections and plates may then be delivered to our organisation for conversion into more ore handling plants, Blast Furnaces, Mixers, Bridges, etc.

Since the cycle is complete, it is apparent that if we require first-class material upon which to work, all divisions of our group must provide first-class equipment to our customers.

Apart from steel, we have produced and are producing a great deal of equipment for the non-ferrous metal industries for the production of sections, bars and tubes, strip, sheets and plates.

We have supplied drawbenches for the production of bright drawn bars to all the principal manufacturers. We are also supplying drawbenches for the production of cold drawn steel, copper and aluminium tubing, to Companies at home and overseas.

It is highly probable that the bright steel bars and cold drawn tubes which you are using has been made on H.W.M. equipment.

We have delivered recently to Yorkshire Copper Works Ltd. a complete plant for making brass and copper tubes. On the Rotary Piercer solid billets of up to 6 ins. diameter and 60 ins. long are converted into thick walled tubes about 6 ins. diameter and 19 ft. long.

These tubes are pointed on our Squeeze Pointing Machines and then drawn through dies on two large Drawbenches for many successive passes until the diameter and wall thickness are reduced to the normal commercial sizes. We are building two further Drawbenches for this customer, and have recently received a further order for five more of these machines.

Our first complete rolling mill plant is now in course of manufacture. This will take 6 in. square steel billets and roll them down to angles, channels, joists, flats and rounds.

For the Northern Aluminium Company and the Steel Company of Wales we are building a large number of Coilers and Uncoilers, Slitting Machines, Up-cut Shears, Levellers, etc., for the handling and processing of hot and cold rolled strip in coils of up to 20 tons in weight and 80 ins. wide in steel and 2 tons and 60 ins. wide in aluminium.

We have many orders on hand for delivery to Australia, India, Belgium, France, Holland, and Sweden. Each machine we send out is a potential salesman. In 1947 we delivered two Drawbenches to France, and it has been very gratifying to have many enquiries for a machine like the one supplied to "Seutet" in Lyons.

During a recent visit to Sweden I was very impressed with the great interest of everyone I saw in the activities and products of our Group.

Whilst there, I saw one of the two large Plate Levellers we recently supplied to Swedish Shipyards. This was flattening heavy plates for welded ship construction, and another smaller machine was ordered for the thinner plates.

A galvanising plant for steel sheets is now en route to Sweden and many other orders are in the process of manufacture.

One important activity is the manufacture of hardened steel rolls for the processing of metals, the milling of flour, the production of breakfast foods, the crushing of wool, the production of paper and cardboard, etc.

Space does not allow of further details at this stage, but this article would not be complete without reference to the splendid co-operation of our American friends, the Aetna-Standard Engineering Company, the Lewis Foundry & Machine Division of Blaw Knox and the Streine Tool & Manufacturing Company of New Bremen, Ohio. The free interchange of information and ideas between these Companies and ours is very valuable.

It is very encouraging to witness the restoration of our "erecting bays to be" to their former status. We hope they will become as renowned for "Head Wrightsons" as they were for our predecessors. When these are completed we shall have assembly shops, probably second to none in this area. The length of drawbenches, like the demand, seems to increase, and a large amount of floor space is required for their complete erection and trial.

In a lesser capacity, perhaps, we are assisting in the alleviation of the electricity stringency, by our machining of huge turbo-condensers for the new large Power Stations in various parts of the country. Our work in this direction will, no doubt, eventually come to light.

Our Pattern Shop or "Would Workers Institute" is one of those ancillary, yet none the less important, and efficient departments which seldom come into the limelight reflected by the finished products and is presided over by Mr. J. Mahoney, who is very proud of the calibre of work turned out by his apprentices. Mr. Mahoney says that although he comes from the 'POOLS, and gets LITTLE WOOD yet, he manages to COPE with all requirements.

It is a source of intense satisfaction to Mr. Geo. (Geoff to you) Longstaff, that he is now Grandpa to an embryo drawbench fitter. This precocious infant can already operate his kid arms without any limits which hinder him. "Looks just like me" says Geoff, proudly, but regarding this latter remark editorial opinion is cautiously reserved.

Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Due probably to the discovery of a large spark among the drawings, the formation of a Volunteer Fire Brigade has been mooted, a useful motor driven pump being already on the spot. The Brigade will probably seek a large beck with plenty of water and acquire the necessary proficiency. It is hoped that telescopic sights will not be necessary for this.

Photographic Society.

This still flourishes and several interesting lectures and demonstrations have been given, while others are in prospect.

Dance.

The Staff are running an informal Dance with the Benevolent Fund in mind. This will be in Dorman's Hall, Linthorpe, on Thursday, 31st March, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets 4/- each. Come and enjoy yourselves and also help a good cause.

* * *

H.W. PROCESSES**Social Club.**

Table Tennis is decidedly the main attraction at our Social Club every Friday, though our pianist, an excellent pianist—also a draughtsman—is a close runner-up. Refreshments are handed round about 7-30 p.m. and a group forms itself round the piano for a sing-song. Occasionally one or two solos are given by our Chief Draughtsman, but these and their "originator" are soon stifled with orders to "pipe" down. Those wishing to show off their skill at table tennis are being given an opportunity of doing so in the form of a tournament, but we are unable to publish results yet as we are only in the first round. Last week our Dr. Fisher was initiated into the art of dart-throwing, which he did with "Cupidian" skill.

Rambling—Stoke Poges to Habinger Hammer.

A statistically-minded member was found crouching over some figures recently. He had worked out the total man-miles (and woman-miles) our ramblers had walked since this time last year. The distance he found to be equal to that from London to somewhere in the middle of Rhodesia. While doubting the accuracy of this wild computation, all agree that the rambles have been enjoyable, health-giving, and indeed well worth while. Even when the weather has been occasionally wet and the hike has broken up into a sort of dash from cafe to cafe, the true rambling spirit has prevailed. We hope to continue as well this year, and would welcome all newcomers to the field who have any enthusiasm for the 8 to 12 mile not-too-much-arranged type of ramble. This and a reasonably stout pair of shoes.

* * *

PLATE (A LAMENT)**(From South Africa)**

By Anon

Benoni Works have tools galore,
And Headgear orders by the score,
Which can't be filled at scheduled rate;
We are so very short of plate,
Instead of headgears tow'ring high,
We've templates rising to the sky,
Awaiting some far distant date,
When we will have sufficient plate.
We make a special mine car too—
Our Clients say far, far too few;
We have to ask them all to wait—
They'll get them when we get some plate.
As it arrives hot from the Mills
(One corner of a truck it fills),
Our quota's used at such a rate
That soon we're waiting for more plate.
"Que faire, Que faire?" we cry a lot
(We think our French is very hot,
But not so hot as soon our fate
If we don't get a lot more plate.
So please have you got some to spare,
You handsome fellows over there?
Not just a bit to make up weight—
A lovely pile of nice new plate?
(Mr. Waller please read).

APPRENTICES

To foster the interest of the apprentices at Stockton Forge, we are trying out a scheme of interchange between the Drawing Office and Works. The most outstanding apprentices in each case will be allowed to obtain a year's training in the Drawing Office and in the various parts of the Works.

Recruitment and Training Exhibition

The first of a series of these exhibitions is to be held in the Constantine College, Middlesbrough, from 21st to 26th March. The exhibition has been arranged by a committee of the British Iron & Steel Federation, of which Mr. Peter Wrightson is an active member. Only a limited number of tickets will be available, as school leavers have preference, and over 3,500 boys have already made application to attend.

"Knowledge is Proud"

The reputation for sound design and good workmanship possessed by H.W. has its roots in the training given to apprentices. Side by side with the development of our products has been the development of training.

The Apprentice Training Scheme is now in its third year and 145 boys are now budding craftsmen, complimenting themselves on being selected for entrance into the scheme and thankful to the management and workers who made it possible that the knowledge gained in the shops and the Training School has provided them with a clear picture and understanding of every trade, thereby allowing them to determine the trade that suited their natural interest and aptitude.

These boys are now members of the team who have their counterparts and they realise that the more they contribute the more they will profit. Space does not permit to mention you all, but thanks—Albert Allan, Tom Bullock, Len Clarkson, Jack Green, Freddy Husband, Jack Irish, Ron Lackenby, Jack Martin, Ken Monkhouse, Charlie Rodgers, Ron Walton, Fred Wilson, Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all.

Technical Library

A library has now been started for use by apprentices.

Works Cinema

The value of films in industry has been recognised by the Management and at their instigation and expense a Works Cinema has been installed in the Apprentice School complete with a Sound Film Projector and a Film Strip Machine. This will be opened shortly, and it is hoped full use will be made of this new visual aid to production. The first of a good series of instructional sound films will shortly be shown: "Fabrication and Treatment Methods of Aluminium," i.e. Welding, Riveting, Machining, etc.

Commended Apprentices

Allan Ayre, Plater, Forge
McCluskey, Pattern Maker, Middlesbrough
C. Percival, Moulder, Teesdale
John Raine, Fitter
Ken. Waugh, Pattern Maker, Teesdale
A. Husband, Fitter and Turner, Middlesbrough
R. McRobert, Pattern Maker, S.S.F.
W. Porter, Fitter, Teesdale
K. Robinson, Draughtsman, Teesdale

FROM AN "ANON" CONTRIBUTOR**CORRECTION.**

It's not the "Cranes" or the "Air" up at the 'Cliffe.
It's the sand—ask Murgatroyd.

TEESDALE.

Better cut your sticks to regulation lengths. The big guy with the "wavy" hair isn't a star; he's the new copper.

The Heat will be run off shortly between Trigger Rogers & Con. My money's on "Trigger."



MR. J. F. BURN,
Designer Draughtsman

Mr. J. E. Burn, at present a Designer Draughtsman with Head Wrightson Light Alloy Structures Limited, in London, is the Father of the House, so far as Head Wrightson Drawing Office Staffs are concerned.

He joined the company as a junior draughtsman in 1891 and worked under his father, who was the chief draughtsman at Teesdale. He has been responsible for contracts, including Blast Furnace Plants, Floating Caissons, Dock Gates, Bridges, etc.

Under the personal supervision of the Chairman, Sir Guy Wrightson, and the late Mr. J. M. Ringquist, he was responsible for the calculations and drawings for the 12 820 ft. 0 ins. Masts for the G.P.O. at Rugby Wireless Station. During the first world war he was responsible for the drawings for the Vertical Horizontal Blast Furnace Chargers which were a "Wrightson Ringquist Patent" and, during the second world war, he was in charge of the design and detailing of the Floating Caisson for Singapore.

After 50 years service with the firm he was on the point of retiring, but was induced to come to the help of the "Baby" of the group, H.W.L.A.S., made his home in London and was responsible for the detailed drawings and calculations for Sunderland Bridge.

The success of his efforts in the new material have aroused his interest, and he is now looking forward to designing other bridges in this material in the near future.

In his early days Mr. Burn was a keen cyclist and during the 1914-18 war he developed a taste for gardening, in which he is still interested.

Mr. Burns' father also completed 50 years service

with Head Wrightson & Co., and his two brothers, Len and Will, were members of the staff for many years before leaving to take up important positions with London Consulting Engineers. His son, Cyril, also served his apprenticeship with the firm, and now holds a position as Civil Engineering Assistant with the North Riding County Council, where he is also interested in Bridges.

Does this suggest that good engineers are born, or made?

ACCIDENTS SURVEY 1948

The improved lighting and brighter paint work in workshops seems to have effected a great reduction of accidents, especially with regard to those caused by machines and plant.

Carelessness, however, in handling objects caused 43% of total injuries and over 31% of the total time lost.

Is it a coincidence that the month of August is always our blackest period for careless accidents? July is the brightest.

TEESDALE

A table is given below showing the incidence of accidents at the above Works:—

Reportable Accidents

Number employed	2,267
Man hours worked	5,541,240
Number of Accidents	140
Man hours lost	29,916
% of hours lost by Machinery and Plant	1%
% of hours lost by handling of objects	31%
% of hours lost by hand tool operators	18%
% accidents for Construction Shops	30%
.. .. Forgings	23%
.. .. Steel Foundry	18%
.. .. Engineering	17%
.. .. Iron Foundry	9%
% Accidents other departments	3%

For every lost time accident due to personal injury there have been 29 accidents which have required only first aid treatment.

For every lost time accident due to personal injury there have been 200 accidents which have caused no injury.

Mr. H. Lamb, Chargehand Moulder in the Induction Bay, has been selected as a member of the Anglo-American Productivity Council Team, which is to visit the United States to consider methods of Production, Organization, Lay-out and Administration.

Mr. Lamb sailed on March 9th on the "Queen Mary," accompanied by the best wishes of his colleagues in the Steel Foundry.

Mr. Harper, Mr. Mercer, Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Windross are still in America. Perhaps we shall have some interesting articles from them in our next issue. From their letters they seem to be enjoying their visit very much.

Magazine correspondents have sent in their information fairly well this time. May we suggest that you begin making notes for the next issue immediately you have despatched your copy for the previous one. This does away with that hectic rush when time is getting short—we know, from experience. You should always be on the lookout for items of news—be it interesting only to your own Division or to the whole of the Works.