

WRIGHT AHEAD

THE HEAD WRIGHTSON NEWS LETTER

VOL. 5

NOVEMBER 1954

NO. 3

CANADA

During the months of May and June, I visited our branch office in Toronto and toured the various provinces of Canada with Mr. E. J. Robinson and Mr. J. W. Gowland. You see a picture of them to the right, which I took in Toronto Airport.

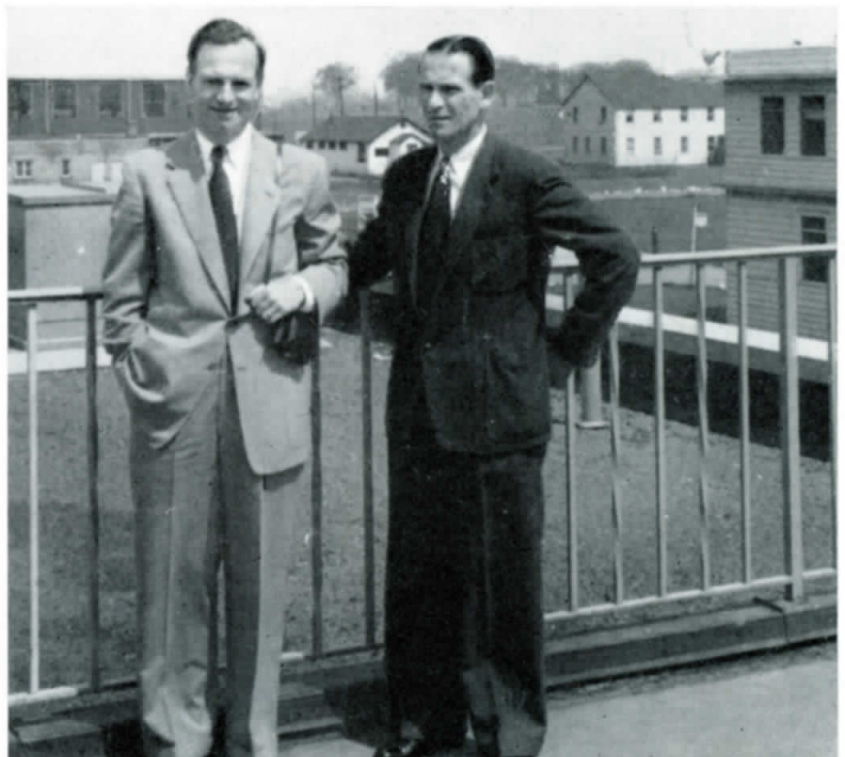
There is, without doubt, immense scope for our specialities in Canada—equipment for the mining industry, the iron and steel industry, and the oil, chemical and pulp industries. But we are over 3,000 miles away and our Canadian competitors, to say nothing of our competitors in the United States of America, have a geographical advantage. We will, therefore, only be able to succeed in opening this important market if we can give our Canadian customers the very best quality and service—service in terms of speedy quotations and reliable deliveries in extra quick time.

I arrived in Canada by sea in the City of Montreal, which is still the centre of the heavy engineering industry. Here, many of the large mining and industrial Corporations have their headquarters, including the mighty Aluminum Company of Canada. Here, too, is the Crane Company's main works in Canada.

We then flew on to Toronto, with its bustling air of an American City, where, on Bay Street, is our office, surrounded by those of the Country's largest finance and commercial undertakings. Toronto reminds one of Johannesburg in its high speed business and boundless optimism.

Leaving Toronto we flew to Calgary where we visited the oil companies who are rapidly developing the oil-fields of Alberta. Thence through the Rockies by train to Vancouver, and on to Victoria and Nanaimo to see the latest developments in the pulp and paper industries of British Columbia.

Back across the Rockies, this time by air, we stayed in Edmonton to tour the famous Leduc Oilfield and the oil refineries outside the City. Thence, after two days in Winnipeg, the wheat capital, we returned to Toronto for the Trade Fair, and spent an absorbing day at Niagara visiting the Sir Adam Beck Hydro-Electric Generating Station below the Falls.



Mr. J. W. Gowland and Mr. E. J. Robinson

I do not think people in Great Britain can visualize the burning enthusiasm of the Canadians—in life, in sport and in business. For their ability of "getting things done" they have no equal. For example, they are showing their American neighbours how to construct hydro-electric schemes in half the accepted time.

All this means that their ideas are based on speed—speed in design, speed in producing a tender and specification, speed above all in the execution of a project. If we wish to extend our business in Canada we shall have to look to our delivery programmes and conform to the Canadian customers' outlook, which means, in effect, we shall have to deliver in a matter of weeks what previously we were prepared to do in months.

John Wrightson

**Head Wrightson & Co. Ltd.—
London office.**

Miss Betty O'Brien to Mr. D. E. Robson.
Mr. William B. Thompson to Miss S. M. Chetwynd Talbot.

The Head Wrightson Machine Co.

Mr. K. Gale (T.E.D.) to Miss M. Woodhouse.
Miss M. Featherstone (D.O.) to Mr. T. Middleton.
Mr. Brian Wren (D.O.) to Miss Y. Patterson.
Mr. D. Atkinson (D.O.) to Miss N. Robson (Print Room).
Mr. R. Russell (D.O.) to Miss M. Robertson.
Mr. W. Walton (Erectors) to Miss J. Edwards.
Mr. G. Knox (Erectors) to Miss Jean Malpass.
Mr. Norman Thompson (Mach. Shop) to Miss Maria V. Osch.

H. W. Aluminium Ltd.

Mr. W. E. Marshall to Miss A. H. Turner.

Stockton Forge.

Mr. P. Kitching (Forge Office) to Miss O. Hart (Teesdale Eng.).

DEATHS

Condolences to the relatives of
Teesdale Bridge Yard.
Mr. H. Lucas.

Egglescliffe Foundry.

Mr. J. W. Watson.
Mr. A. Stubbins.



Mr. and Mrs. B. Wren



Mr. and Mrs. R. Russell



Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Marshall

A series of horizontal lines for writing, arranged in a descending staircase pattern from right to left, intended for recording names and addresses.

Have You a Grandfather?

There are many homes on Tees-side where hidden away in a dark corner, or on a landing, may stand a grandfather clock. Perhaps it is not in going order so no one bothers about it, yet strange to say, the old clock is coming into fashion again and I find the demand for brass-faced clocks exceeds the supply as they are much older and more valuable than the white-faced variety.

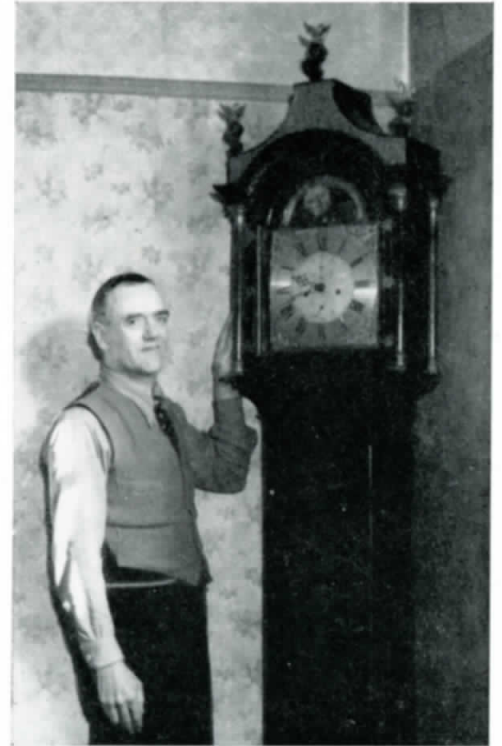
Your old clock on the top of the stairs may only need its works cleaning and then when set in beat will go as well as ever. "In beat," means when you hear an even tick-tock with the pendulum swinging an even distance to either side of its resting place. The strange thing about these clocks is, being thoroughly British, they never seem to wear out. There are no springs to break, the heavy weights driving the clock consistently year in and year out. The youngest are at least one hundred years old. You will find them better timekeepers than any of the modern clocks and any one of them will assuredly last your lifetime, which is more than can be said for the modern timepieces. Some of my clocks are two hundred and forty, and two hundred and ten years old and one youngster only two hundred. They strike consistently with the wireless year in and year out.

If you have an old clock, treasure it, treat it carefully, clean with petrol and don't over oil it. The oil in Danny Lloyd's store is no good nor is cycle oil. Use proper clock oil, it is cheap enough.

Some of my clocks show on the dial, the date of the month, the age of the moon, and, in one case, the high water mark at Newcastle Quay. I have them in walnut cases, and mahogany and, as illustrated, in black and gold chinese laquer. The latter is valued at £100. In style it resembles "Master Humphries' Clock," immortalised by Charles Dickens. I may say, that I have refused all offers for this clock.

As with other hobbies, clocks seem to grow on one. They are not like livestock, they do not eat and require no licence. Unlike a garden, they do not require digging after a hard day's work, I derive great pleasure from restoring a neglected specimen to something like its former glory and similar to when it left the clockmaker's shop perhaps two hundred years or more ago. To me it is an achievement to hear its friendly tick-tock once more. This cannot be reckoned in terms of £ s. and d

"Horologist," Bridge Yard.



"Horologist"—Mr. T. Cummings



The Official Party at the Opening Ceremony

A PROUD DAY FOR H.W.

Following a most generous gift from the Chairman and Directors, the Sports Ground at Teesdale Park has been completely replanned with two new football pitches three new tennis courts and a new Pavilion.

We were very proud to have Mrs. Richard Miles, supported by Mr. Peter Wrightson, declare open all these new improvements.

The occasion was made unique by the presence of the Mayors and Mayoresses of Stockton, Thornaby and Middlesbrough.

DIVISIONAL NOTES

ENGINEERING DIVISION

Machine Shop.

I am asked to place on record the thanks of this department for the very enjoyable visit to Appleby-Frodingham. A most interesting and instructive visit, with first class organisation and meals.

A few familiar faces are missing from our scene, some we hope only temporarily. Tommy Williams, for many years, clerk to Mr. Franklin, has retired. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, he is in hospital but we hope this will not be for long so that he may spend many happy years in retirement.

The Tool Room has lost George Hall, who is now mine host of a Stockton Inn. As you will guess he got plenty of ribbing on taking the job so near his heart but he made it clear to all—"No Slate." We wish him the best of luck in his new "trade." We thought we'd lost his namesake Alfie, too but it turned out he was only adrift for 48 hours.

His many friends will be sorry to hear of the illness of Harry Parsons (Toolroom Foreman). The latest information is that it will be a slow job but all here hope that by the time this magazine is issued he will be in improved health or better still is back with us.

We wish for a speedy return to work of Messrs. Harold Ripley, Jack Stead and H. Smith.

STEEL FOUNDRIES DIVISION

Teesdale.

We send 'Bon Voyage' to Peter Earl who has left us to join Kenya Police Force, we hope he finds the Mau Mau spoor.

Congratulations to Peter Lamb on passing in all subjects in his General Education Certificate.

We are asked to express the thanks of those members of our Division who took part in the visit to Appleby Frodingham, for a very enjoyable and interesting day.

Welcome back after a long illness to Mr. Geoff. Close (Pattern Shop) whom, we trust will continue in good health, and a speedy recovery to Mr. J. Proctor and Mr.

Roy Stewart, who are both in hospital.

Congratulations to Mrs. M. Moses who worked in our office on the birth of a daughter—this makes Mr. H. Lamb a grandfather.

The Division has pleasure in reporting that recently a new 10 ton EFCO three phase furnace has been installed, capable of a weekly tonnage of two hundred tons. All modern improvements, both of design and operation, have been instituted making the working operation much simpler in comparison with the older type furnaces. The electrical control system is of the most modern design, being fully interlocked which makes its operation fool-proof.

Water cooling of doors, door frames, arches, etc., extend the brick life considerably. The swing roof for top charging and the furnace tilting gears are worked hydraulically. The charging container, capable of holding 10 tons, is about 7 ft. dia. and 5 ft. deep, the loose bottom consists of segments $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick, bolted to the outside of the cylindrical body and drawn to the centre, held in position by $1\frac{1}{4}$ " dia. rope, which burns away when placed inside the furnace, thus releasing the charge when the bucket is withdrawn.

The pneumatic carbon grips for re-adjustment are, particularly welcomed by the furnace operatives as on the older type furnaces, it is necessary to unfasten, lower and then tighten up again on top of the hot furnace.

Stockton.

We hope for a speedy recovery from illness of S. Clarkson, S. Burdett, A. Hill and R. Nicholson.

Congratulations to:

H. Gaddas—on his four firsts at the Head Wrightson Show.

Messrs. T. Thomas and H. Roach on their silver weddings.

And to our bowls team who were this year's Inter-departmental Cup winners.



Visit of employees to Appleby-Frodingham Steel works, 24th September—one section of the party.

Fifth Annual Outing.

The staff of Stockton Steel Foundry enjoyed a very pleasant trip on 22nd June, 1954 by coach through Weardale and Tynedale making Hexham the resting spot for lunch, which was well served at the Royal Hotel and enjoyed by all.

Most of the party paid a visit to the Abbey during their short stay in this historical town. A section found it necessary to visit a certain Buffet and during their presence a grand gentleman made himself known to them, very smartly dressed with a somewhat Tees-side accent—the name, "MacBartaby" complete with moustache, grown almost in a flash—very nice fellow.

The party left Hexham en route for Hadrian's wall and all it found was "Fourstones"—s'right. Moving on through Ponteland and Burton Area to the coast at Whiteley Bay where we had a short stay and, of course, some one had to be last—"Anyone seen Mustard?" A voice from the main party informed us that he had last been seen on the "Big Dipper."

Next stop Newcastle, where, sand removed from our shoes, we enjoyed a grand meal at "The Royal Turk's Head" plus a toast to an absent friend.

"Auld Lang Syne" at Rushyford and the end of a very delightful day.

Fisherman of England.

On 5th September, the staff had another outing this time to Whitby, where the East Pier was the scene of a fishing match—and what a match. Out of twenty-two entrants, five caught fish or should I say, "Minnows" with Geo. Featham the winner with a catch of 10 ozs. Two hours was the allotted time for the match but long before that, several entrants gave up the ghost due to tangled lines and a strong wind, it seemed a hopeless task, the fish, judging by the amount of bait used, being the victors.

An excellent dinner was provided at the Crown Hotel and 10-30 p.m. saw the fisherman in the 'bus bound for home.

IRON FOUNDRY

Egglescliffe Foundry.

The Division notes with regret and offers best wishes on retirement to Messrs. A. Wilson, T. Yardley and J. W. Palfreeman who were amongst its oldest servants.

STOCKTON FORGE

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Raine on their silver wedding anniversary.

We welcome back to the D.O., Tom Chambers who has completed his National Service, we have high hopes that Tom will be the mainstay of our Office Swimming Team in the gala.



The new EFCO 10 ton 3 phase furnace in the Steel Foundry, Teesdale

Congratulations to Bob Wright who has obtained his B.Sc.

Answers to problems in last issue:—

1. The bookworm goes completely through Volume 2 (two), the front cover of Vol. 1 (one) and the back cover of Vol. 3 (three). N.B. Books placed properly on a bookshelf always have Page 1 (one) on the right hand side.
2. £150 each. The clue to the number of sons he had, is in the word "between." Had he had more than two sons, it would have read "among."
3. 2.414R.

Problems.

Tom gave Dick 15 secs. start and finished level in a mile race; Over the same distance Dick can give Harry 176 yds. to finish level; starting off level Tom beat Harry by one minute. How long do they each take to run a mile?

What do you make of and what is the answer to the following subtraction sum:—

Poles	Yards	Ft.	Ins.
8	0	1	0
7	5	2	6

Can you find a sum of money which when you write the figures down side by side, and in exactly the same order, give you the number of farthings in that sum of money?

THE HEAD WRIGHTSON MACHINE CO., LTD.

We warmly congratulate the following members of our staff who have recently been awarded Degrees or Higher National Certificates.

- B. Wren, B.Sc. (Mechanical and Electrical Engineering)
D. Smithson, B.Sc. (Mechanical Engineering)

Higher National Certificates

- I. Atkinson (2 distinctions)
- G. Fenna (1 distinction)
- P. Johnson
- A. Dodds
- R. Botterill
- A. Gallacher

Dorman Long—Broad Flange Beam Mill.

On the Site which is now being developed at Lackenby, Dorman Long have installed a new melting shop and have recently decided to install on this site a new mill for the production of broad flange beams and other structural sections.

The largest broad flange beam to be produced will be 36"X12".

We have recently secured in competition with other companies, an order for the supply and erection of four large straightening presses for the handling of these very heavy sections. This order is valued at over £400,000 and each of the machines weighs more than 300 tons.

In addition to providing a substantial load for our own machine and fitting shops, there are a large number of steel castings involved which will be supplied by Head Wrightson Steel Foundries Ltd.

Tube Investments Ltd.

We have recently put into operation a complete plant for the conversion of solid billets of alloy steel into tubes. This plant is now in full production at the Desford Works of T.I. and the tubes it is producing are being used in short lengths to make the inner and outer races for ball and roller bearings.

It is the first plant of its kind to be installed in this country and is in line with the latest American practice.

It is hoped soon to have some short films of this plant in operation which can be shown to employees of the H.W. Group.

S.C.O.W. (Trostre) Hot Dip Tinning Plant.

Reference was made in the last news letter to this plant, and since that time a film has been completed showing this plant in operation. This will be exhibited to employees of the Machine Company in the immediate future and will be available for showing to any of the people in the group who are interested.

Our sympathies are extended to Mr. Ernest Oliver and Mr. L. Harcourt on the death of their wives.

We bid "Au Revoir" to Messrs. J. Clark, G. Knox and J. Burt who are joining H.M. Forces for their National Service and welcome back Messrs. A. Husband and M. Gibson who have completed their service.

Messrs. N. Yafano, R. Banks, Colin Clark and J. Burns are back again after illness and we trust their health will remain good.

To Messrs. J. Bartlett, G. Begg, M. R. Elliott, S. Hall, N. Shearer, Bill Walton and G. Henderson, we wish a speedy return to work.

We offer our congratulations to Mr. Ernest Elsegood (Estimating Dept.) who has attained the rank of Inspector in the M'bro special constabulary.

There have been several additions to the Drawing Office complement, viz. Misses Featherstone and Stainsby and Mr. Timothy Wynne.

McKEE IRON AND STEEL DIVISION

On the last Friday of September, the staff of McKee Division and a party of Head Wrightson employees who had worked on the project, together totalling about one hundred and thirty, paid a visit to Scunthorpe for a full-day inspection of the "Seraphim" extensions to the South Ironworks of Appleby-Frodingham Steel Company.

App-Frod had kindly provided a number of guides who, together with people from McKee Division familiar with the layout, took over the responsibility of shepherding parties of 10-12 around the plant which has recently gone into production. Many features of the Gas Cleaning, Ore Preparation and Sintering Plants were recognised by the lads who had a hand in their making and many an anecdote was exchanged about how the job was done. Although time was limited everything of interest, including the spectacular cooling towers, power house and "Queens Anne and Victoria" blast furnaces was visited for a brief period and all were impressed by the vastness of the project.

Our thanks are due to the Management of both companies concerned for their generosity in sponsoring this enjoyable and extremely instructive outing and the thoughtful attention to detail, particularly the provision of first class meals, on the part of the organisers.

As is generally known, Andrew Young, our former



Sir Archibald Forbes, Chairman of the Iron and Steel Board, starting up the Seraphim Plant, Appleby Frodingham Steel Company, 29th July, 1954. The photograph on Page 5 shows some of the party of our employees who visited their works on 24th September.

Assistant Chief Engineer, left the firm in July and we extend to him our congratulations and good wishes upon his new appointment at Colvilles. Andrew has asked us to say through the medium of the magazine that, whilst he had no opportunity of personally contacting many of his friends, he would like to express his thanks and appreciation for the assistance he received from everyone throughout his stay with us.

We offer to Bill Adams our congratulations on his appointment as Construction Manager for McKee Division, and extend a welcome to Larry Foulkes, our new Service Engineer. Reluctantly we say "Farewell" to his predecessor, Fred Bulman, who has taken up an appointment with John Summers. With Fred go our best wishes for his every success in the future.

COLLIERY EQUIPMENT DIVISION

Owing to the continued increase in staff, the Division is already on the move. Having spent eight months in "Whitwell's Offices" it has been found that the Division has outgrown its "living" accommodation and is now to be housed in Richardson Duck's offices at the lower end of Trafalgar Street. It is hoped that it will live in harmony with the Wages and Shipping Departments, although the latter now watches its movements with an eagle eye as it has been responsible for their last two moves, and the question on their lips is "Where to, next?"

The Division welcomes Messrs. Worthington and Chambers who recently joined the Staff, and hopes that they will be both happy and busy in their new jobs. The former just had time to settle in before he went off to Germany to deputise for Mr. Cussons at the Coal Preparation Congress held at Essen.

HEAD WRIGHTSON STAMPINGS LTD.

We wish a speedy recovery to Messrs. T. Hurst and W. Jackson and welcome back after illness, Messrs. J. Turner, R. Fountain, G. Nichols and W. Jackson.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

The Division offers its condolences to Mr. W. Lee on the loss of his wife. Mr. Lee, Power House Attendant, after 50 years' with the Company has now retired. We hope he will enjoy health and a happy leisure.

HEAD WRIGHTSON PROCESSES LIMITED

The first H.W.P. concrete Induced Draught Cooling Towers will soon go into operation. One of the five Towers scheduled to be built for the Steel Company of Wales at Port Talbot has now been completed and the British Celanese Tower at Wrexham is almost ready for action.

Close liaison has always been maintained with our American associates, the Fluor Corporation, and we have for a number of years been marketing the Fluor Cooling Towers and Fin-Fans, among other items of equipment, in the Sterling area.

We are pleased to announce that a much closer liaison has now been established between our Companies in connection with a project for Gas Dehydration for the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Australia. For the first time H.W.P. and Fluor are working side by side on the same project, and the Plant is being engineered by us to an American design.

The sales campaign for our new packaged Fin-Fan Air Cooled Heat Exchanger is being pushed actively and new advertisements are being prepared to help increase our business in this field. We are at present negotiating for another very large order for this equipment from the continent.

A new Brochure concerning tubestills will soon be ready for publication and work is shortly to begin on a publication concerning the concrete Induced Draught Cooling Tower.

The Atomic Energy Division has a full programme of work for the Ministry of Supply, and the photograph alongside, shows our Managing Director, Dr. R. C. Fisher, standing on the right of Sir John Cockcroft, Director of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, when he recently cut the first sod on the site of the new Reactor (which was designed by H.W.P.) at Harwell.

The Company Dance this year is to be held on November 19th, at Plantation House, Mincing Lane, in the City.



Sir John Cockcroft cuts the first sod on the site of the new Reactor at Harwell. On the left is Dr. R. C. Fisher, Managing Director, H.W.P.

HEAD WRIGHTSON ALUMINIUM LTD.

We offer our congratulations to Mr. K. E. Clark (Gen. Office) who has obtained a scholarship to Hatfield College of Durham University for a three year course in economics. Ken attended a series of Extra Mural Classes at Stockton Technical Institute and having submitted three papers namely: Poverty; Thesis on Thomas Hughes and the Social Problem of Old Age, he successfully attained an Adult Education Exhibition Grant. This must be commended since only ten of these grants are made annually. We wish him good fortune in his new venture and sincerely hope he is successful in obtaining his degree of B.A.

We also offer our congratulations to W. H. Webster (Alloy Shop) who has had a successful season with his "Foggy Furze Leading Lady" in local Dog Shows. At Sedgfield he obtained seven first prizes and one second, and five firsts, two seconds and one third at the Billingham Show, this brings a total of 55 awards at 7 shows. (See photograph.)

Best wishes to F. Kelly (Alloy Shop) who is now convalescing after his unfortunate accident. We hope to see him back at work soon.



"Foggy Furze Leading Lady"

HEAD WRIGHTSON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The society presented its first play of the season on 20th, 21st and 22nd October,—John Marlow's Profession. I think most of those who saw it will agree that this was one of our most successful productions.

On 29th October, a very successful Annual Ball was held. In the three days' preceding this event there was a frantic rush for tickets. A most enjoyable evening and a date to remember for next year.

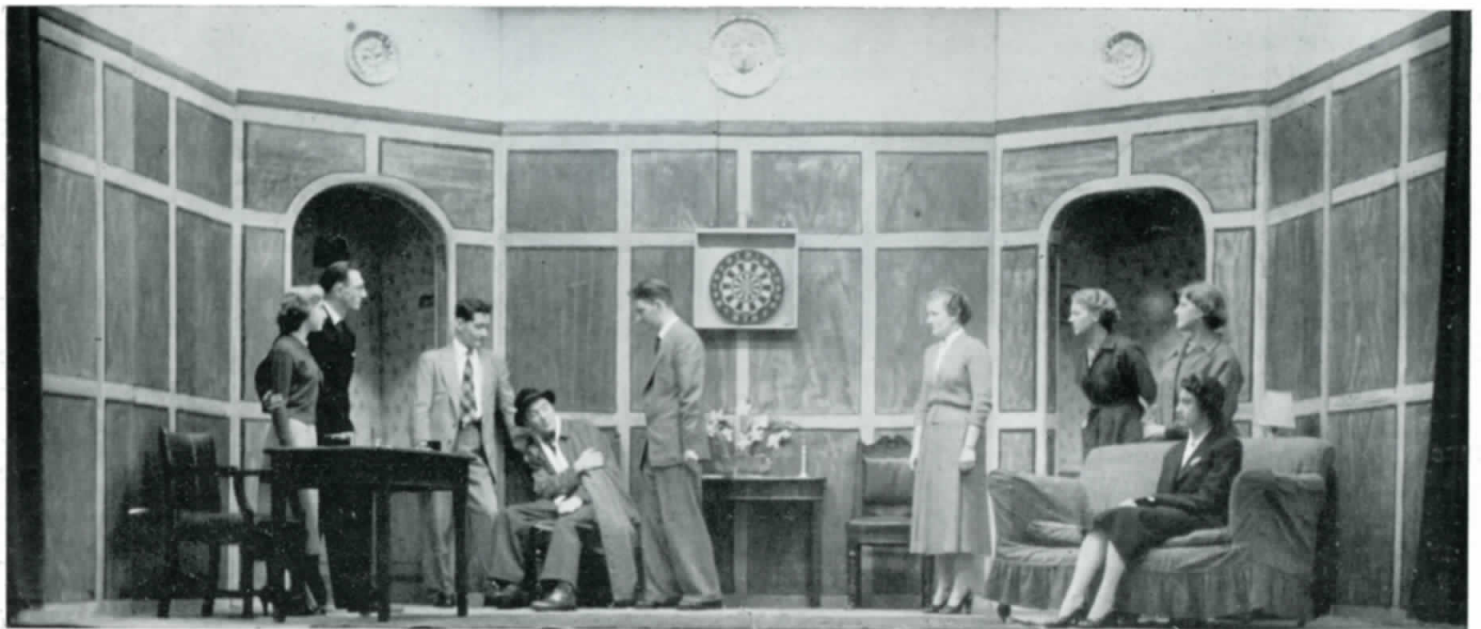
The second production of the season is to be presented on 9th, 10th and 11th February, 1955 and is entitled "An Inspector Calls" by J. B. Priestley.

Our congratulations to one of our very active members, Miss Enid M. Moss, on her engagement to Mr. Malcolm Pallent, we hope that their future will be a rosy one,

best wishes, Enid, from us all.

We should like to inform our members that we have now acquired a workshop for the designing and fabricating of scenery and any practical help would be acceptable. Helping in this way gives an opportunity for getting to know one's fellow members better, which is one of the essentials in an Amateur Dramatic Society. Our genial Stage Director, Mr. George Wilkes, will be happy to give further information on this matter and we are sure that you will enjoy the work as much as rehearsals.

A news sheet for circulation within the Society is now to be issued within the Society and the first copy will be available during our first production. This should make good reading. (Ed. Note—I found this so interesting I am including it in this issue.)



John Marlow's Profession. Cast — Miss A. Vickerson, Messrs. F. Mothersdale, J. McCarton, R. Raper, Misses E. Moss, A. Langecake, A. Pickering and J. Fenny.

HEAD WRIGHTSON DRAMATIC SOCIETY NEWS LETTER

We hope that you will find this interesting, and that it will prove a link between us, the members of the Society, and our patrons.

To put you all in the picture, we should like to commence by giving you a resume of the Society's progress to date. Early in 1952 the suggestion was made that a Dramatic Society should be formed, as there were such excellent facilities for one in the recently opened Teesdale Hall. A meeting called by Mr. Frank Shepherd, our Personnel Manager, revealed a widespread interest in this, so a Society was formed, a committee elected, and arrangements put in hand to produce the first play before the end of the 1951-52 season. The Management of the Head Wrightson Organisation were most sympathetic, and kindly gave us some financial assistance towards our initial costs. In this connection, we would particularly mention the help and encouragement given us by Mr. Richard Miles, Head Wrightson & Co.'s Chairman and Managing Director. Mr. Miles readily agreed to become the Society's President, and has always taken a very great interest in its progress.

Our first production, as old patrons will remember, was J. B. Priestley's "When We Are Married." Under the direction of Mr. Reg. Williams of McKee Division, an experienced and talented producer, it succeeded beyond the wildest dreams of its very nervous cast, and the Dramatic Society was firmly established. Productions have continued regularly, the present one "John Marlow's Profession" being the sixth. The others were "On Monday Next," "The Feminine Touch," "Quiet Wedding," and "I have Five Daughters."

The Society now has a membership of over thirty, drawn from a wide range of Divisions and Departments, and is completely self-supporting. We have recently been fortunate enough to acquire our own Scenery Workshop, and it was there that the set for the present production was constructed. Incidentally, we would emphasise that this set was designed, constructed and painted entirely by members of the Society, led by our Stage Director, Mr. Geo. Wilks of Aluminium Division, and his Assistant, Mr. Barrie Curson of the Engineering Drawing Office. We are also starting our own library of books on acting, stage-craft make-up, and other aspects of the Dramatic Art, to assist our members in their strivings towards perfection!

We think that you will agree from the foregoing that our progress to date is encouraging, and we hope that we shall have more interesting developments to report in our next issue.

And now we turn our attention from past to future, and would like to bring to your notice the following forth-coming events.

Our Next Production.

This will be staged on February 9th, 10th and 11th, 1955, and will be that famous J. B. Priestley play "An Inspector Calls". You will have heard a lot about this play, with its atmosphere of breathless suspense; now you've got the chance to see it performed.

OUR POET'S CORNER

The following odd ode, which is to be sung to the tune of "Galway Bay," is dedicated to all harassed producers, whose casts **will not** learn their lines.

If down Trafalgar Street you will go walking,
Some Thursday at the closing of the day,
With scripts clutched tight, it's then that you will see us,
All hurrying down to practice at our play.
And our faces are so worried and so careworn,
As through the door and up the stairs we go,
For though we've only got three more rehearsals,
Our movements and our lines we do not know.

The producer's in despair now as he sees us,
All wandering round and clutching scripts so tight,
But though it happens every darned production,
It always seems to come right on the night.

PERSONALITY PARADE

Mr. Reg. Williams, McKee Division.

Mr. Williams' features are not familiar to our audiences, as he is usually behind the scenes in the role of producer, but there is no doubt that he has played a very vital part in the formation of the Society, from the beginning. He can certainly be classed as our most experienced member, having been actively interested in amateur Drama over a period of fifteen years.

For three years during the late war he ran a concert party at Bilston, and during that time he was also a member of the local Opera Company and Drama Society, taking part in "The Arcadians," "Gipsy Love" (twice), "Waltz Dream" and "The Duchess of Dantzic." In straight plays, he appeared as Alderman Helliwell in "When We Are Married," Jesse Oakroyd in "The Good Companions," and Churdles Ash in "The Farmer's Wife." This last named play, incidentally, was such a success that they toured the surrounding villages with it for five weeks, finishing up with a week under canvas at West Park, Wolverhampton. Whilst at Bilston, Reg. also appeared on the professional stage a number of times, playing small parts for the Phillip Barrett Repertory Company.

After moving to Seaton Carew, Reg. continued his dramatic activities, producing "When We Are Married" —in which he also played the part of Ormanroyd the photographer and "Quiet Wedding;" he also played the part of the Inspector in "An Inspector Calls."

As stated elsewhere, Reg. produced our first play, and has produced all the plays since, with the exception of "Quite Wedding."

There is no doubt that we have been very fortunate to secure such an experienced member, and we all hope that his talents will be at the service of the Society for a long time to come.

What is Reg.'s favourite play? Well, perhaps you can guess. "When We Are Married."

DO YOU KNOW

- THAT Mr. Ernest Henderson, former Shipping Department Manager, recently became the Society's first Life Member.
- THAT a recent Dramatic Society Committee Meeting started at 5-30 and finished at 9 p.m. The first all night sitting is expected in the near future.
- THAT some of the canvas used in our scenery was once part of the sound baffle in the roof of the Albert Hall, London.
- THAT there must have been some dirty work in our Scenery Workshop lately, as something looking like a large bloodstain has appeared on the floor. To date the corpse has not come to light. Perhaps it was thrown into the river.
- THAT a certain member of the Wages Department Staff, who had somehow got locked in the above Workshop was rescued by means of a rope and pulley from the outside wall.
- THAT to date we have not had the pleasure of welcoming any members from the Machine Company, Seaton Carew, Egglecliffe Foundry or Stockton Steel Foundry. Come on, you folks, don't be shy. You're sure of a warm welcome.

S. CROSS,
Purchasing Dept.

FENCING

The stamp of feet, the rapid click of blades parry and riposte followed quickly on each other. The quick movements of each fencer were being watched by spectators and judges with tenseness; this was the closing phase of the championship and the next hit would decide the victor.

A disengage with feint in high sixte followed by two more lightening disengages a parry that almost caught the blade as it came into the high line but failed, the blade slid over the wrist. Touche!

The championship held on the 15th and 16th September, had been won by Bryan Holloway in the year of its inauguration, the runner up Desmond Chopping had extended the champion and might well have been the victor if he had fought as he had done the day before, pressing his attacks with a greater vigour, however our good wishes go out to Bryan with the sincere hope that he will emerge with victory in the future from major championships.

The two other competitors worthy of note were Mrs. Gilberte Weber and Ron Clark. I am afraid that in spite of her insufficient practice, she extended the other competitors to a degree of discomfort that had not been anticipated, parrying beautifully, with quick repostes, there were times when she had increased her lead on the handicap against the other fencers that made it seem as if she might win.

Last but not least was the performance of Ron Clark, each bout lost by him was lost on the deciding hit, taking into the account that he was the latest recruit to fencing with only three months at the gentlemanly art he did splendidly.

H.M. Army is no respecter of persons and we have already lost one of our club members just as he was shaping out well. Bryan too will shortly be joining up, for me this is a sad disappointment.

It is my sincere hope that in time I might have so strong a fencing team that the school will be well known in International fields. Flying high? Why not?

V. L. GOOD, H.W. PROCESSES

SWIMMING

Our fortnightly sessions at the Stockton Baths are now practically ended and the Fifth Annual Swimming Gala provided a very happy winding up of the season. This was held on Friday, 29th October, and there was a goodly number of events and entrants. Mr. Richard Miles, our Chairman, presented the prizes to the winners. We hope to publish a more detailed account in our next issue.

BOWLS

Once again we have had a very successful season, having again topped the 'A' Section of the Cleveland and South Durham League. There are four sections in this league and the top club in each section has to play off to determine the best team in the league. We won our semi-final tie but were beaten in the final tie which was to determine who should hold the trophy for the premier award. Our team in the 'B' Section in the same league were second in their section only half a point behind the winners.

In the Works Bowls League we were only two points behind the winners. In the Coronation Cup which is a Knock out competition in the same league we were beaten in the final by Cargo Fleet Works. In the pairs competition in the same league Alf Littlewood and Jim

Crossen were beaten in the final by two shots, they won this last season but just failed this time.

In the Tees-side League we have held our own finishing in the third position.

In the Yorkshire E.B.A. we have had our best season finishing in the fifth position.

In the Interdepartmental Competition the final was won by Stockton Steel Foundry who beat Teesdale Bridge Yard. After this game the Wilfred I. Wrightson Cup was presented to Mr. A. Crowe, the Stockton Steel Captain and our Bowls President by Mr. J. W. Wardell the General Manager of the Stockton Forge Division, he also presented tankards to the winning team. Mr. A. Littlewood received the runners up Cup on behalf of the Bridge Yard Team.

WITH APOLOGIES TO R.K.

If you can keep your tongs, when all about you
 Are losing theirs, and blaming it on you.
 If you can hold yourself, when someone clouts you,
 Yet make allowance for their clouting too,
 If you can sweat and not sweat your master,
 Or keep on set when locks are not the same,
 If you can meet the Chief Inspector
 And not make murder your chief aim,
 If you can make each bolt or spanner
 Serve the turn long after they are done,
 Or get a file and some soft soap from Shemmy,
 When already he has told you three months' stock is gone!
 If you can bear to see the jobs your heart has bled for,
 Slung out by some ham-handed fool,
 Or pass the target, that tears you've shed for
 And refrain from telling the boss to return to school.
 If you obtain sufficient packing
 And not pull down quite half the shop,
 Then in others' lockers, something's lacking
 Maybe the bottom—perhaps the top.
 If you can give each unremitting minute
 "Ninety" seconds' worth of distance run.
 Then yours is the shop and all that's in it
 And what is more you'll be a (super) man, my son.

ANON (H.W. Stampings Ltd.)

THE WORKS BAND

In past issues of our magazine, much has been said of the activities of various sections of the Head Wrightson's community but no mention has been made of the Works Band's achievements. It is time we began to blow our own trumpets both metaphorically as well as practically.

During the past 22 months, the band has been under the baton of Mr. C. Midgley and thanks to his untiring efforts and the enthusiasm of the bandsmen we have won our way from the fourth section to the second; which is quite an achievement.

In May last, we entered the "Daily Herald" contest at Newcastle and won our way through to the all Britain Championship Finals in London, which was on 16th October, though unfortunately we were not among the winners.

On 13th October, we provided a programme of music for our Board of Directors. Engagements are being booked for 1955 and we (and the members of Divisional Councils and their wives) are looking forward to another successful year.

H. W. PERSONALITY



JOHN IONS—BRIDGE YARD

I started to work in October, 1903. At that time our working hours were fifty-three per week. There have been many changes since that time—we had few drilling machines then and practically everything was punched. I believe I was one of the first to put a bundle of plates together for drilling.

There were no motor lorries in those days only horses and carts. The boys were always glad when the S.S. "Teesdale" arrived with carrots for the horses and the boys. 6 o'clock breakfasts were supplied by Mr. Parsons' coffee van—with coffee and a bun at 1d.

On the 9th November, 1915, I enlisted in the 2/5 Durham Light Infantry with Major Guy Wrightson in command and an application for my release came in February, 1917.

I remember well, the first job I got after my return was the overhead crane in the stock yard. We only had a steam jib crane then. I have worked on nearly all of the big jobs done in the Bridge yard including the Thames Bridge, Carter Bridge, the Caissons for Calcutta and Portsmouth, the wireless masts for Rugby and all the Blast Furnace Plants for the past 40 years. During my time with the Company, I have served under eight different Foremen.

(Ed. Note—This is Mr. Ions' own story.)

Our readers will recognise, Sir John Wrightson, Bart., Mr. A. Chilton and Mr. G. Jones, with these most important guests, who made a tour of the whole of our organisation.

*Visit of
members of
Imperial Defence College
to H.W. Stampings Ltd.,
Seaton Carew*

