

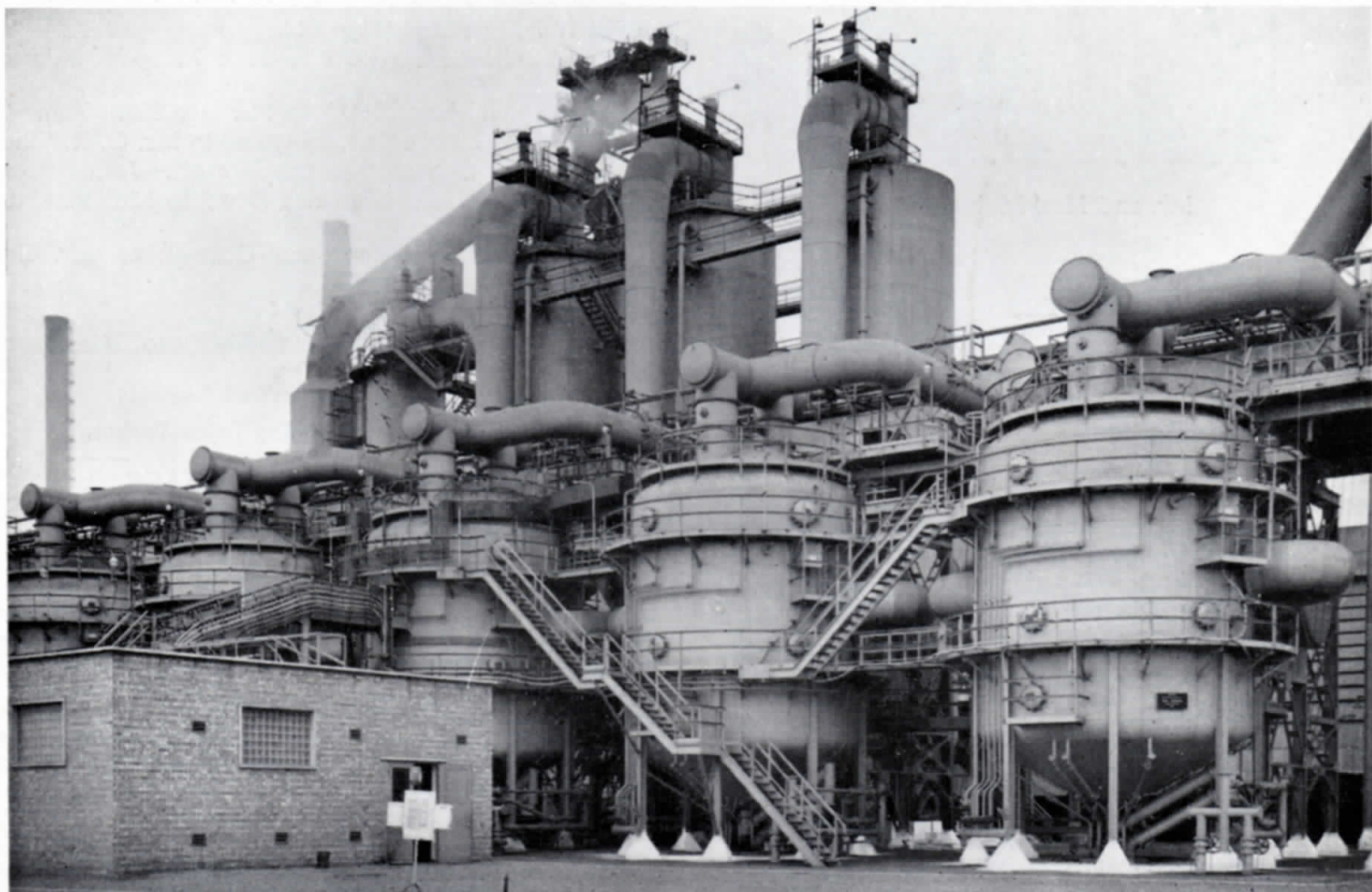
WRIGHT AHEAD

THE HEAD WRIGHTSON NEWS LETTER

VOL. 7

MARCH 1955

NO. 1



Chairman's Letter

This is a picture of one of our latest installations for cleaning blast furnace gas. It is an American improvement of a fairly old British invention for using extremely high voltage electricity for precipitating the dust.

Many years ago, the inventor, Sir Oliver Lodge, told me that his original ideas on the subject started when he was lying in a bath. He noticed on the white enamelled wall of the bathroom, that whereas the wall near the cold water pipe was quite clean, there was a dark area on the wall near the hot water pipe.

As we all know, Head Wrightson's try to keep up to date. It is a pity that we have to depend so much on other countries, America especially, for new developments, but it is quite understandable. Our own basic raw materials are dwindling, and we are therefore at a disadvantage in making progress in some directions. Sixty years ago we produced more iron and steel than the

U.S.A. Today the U.S.A. produces five times as much, and even the U.S.S.R. twice as much, as ourselves.

On the other hand, we have never grown any raw cotton, but we were the biggest makers of cotton textiles for a long period.

The moral seems to be that our best natural resources should be our brains and skill.

Let us see that they are developed and applied in the best direction :

*"The reason firm, the temperate will.
Endurance, foresight, strength and skill."*

Richard Miles

PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. M. Nash

BIRTHS**Machine Shop**

Mr. and Mrs. K. Jones — a son.
Mr. and Mrs. W. Marchant — twins.

Egglecliffe Foundry.

Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Addison — a son.

Stockton Forge

Mr. & Mrs. H. Burns (F.S.) — a daughter.
Mr. and Mrs. G. Parker (B/Yd.) — a son.
Mr. and Mrs. A. Sowerby (D.O.) — a daughter.
Mr. and Mrs. P. Kitching (D.O.) — a daughter.

Maintenance

Mr. and Mrs. R. Baker — a son.

Stockton Steel Foundry

Mr. and Mrs. E. Railton — a daughter.
Mr. and Mrs. L. Weatherill — a son.

H.W. Stampings Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Williams (D.O.) — a son.
Mr. and Mrs. D. Taylor (Die Shop) — a daughter.

H.W. Machine Co. Ltd.

Mr. and Mrs. L. McQuillan — twins.
Mr. and Mrs. L. Newham (Lofty) — a daughter.
Mr. and Mrs. R. Hunter — a daughter.

H.W. Colliery Engineering (Sheffield)

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Mawson — a daughter.

MARRIAGES**Machine Shop**

Mr. J. Heward to Miss A. Flowers.
Mr. W. Wallace to Miss D. James.

Stockton Forge

Miss E. Cartwright (Progress) to Mr. J. H. Hassan.
Mr. E. Kiddle to Miss L. Freeman.

H.W. Colliery Engineering (Sheffield)

Mr. J. M. Plant (D'man) to Miss J. Moody.
Mr. M. Nash to Miss E. Wright (Tracer)

Headquarters

Mr. P. Whitton to Miss Dorothy Green.

DEATHS**Machine Shop**

Mr. A. Rose. Mr. M. McWilliams.

Stockton Forge

Mr. Dick Skipper (B/yd.) Mr. Harry Pickering. (F.S.)
Mr. W. Addison. (General Office)

H.W. Machine Co. Ltd.

Mr. J. Bartlett.

ENGAGEMENTS**Egglecliffe Foundry**

Miss Lilian Smith (Canteen) to Mr. A. R. Smith.

Head Wrightson Stampings Ltd.

Mr. Alan Forbes (D.O.) to Miss Margaret Johnson (Typist).

Mr. Lloyd Nelson (D.O.) to Maureen Knowlson.

Miss Aileen Clarke (Invoice typist) to Mr. G. R. Elliot.

Mr. George Clayton (Die Shop) to Miss Jean Proctor.

Mr. Leslie Johnson (Despatch Dept.) to Miss Margaret Haley.

Miss Jeanne Addison (Steel Control) to Mr. Eric Shield.

Stockton Forge

Mr. Benny Brown (Template Shop) to Miss Marie Kennedy.

H.W. Machine Co. Ltd.

Mr. Trevor Hill (D.O.) to Miss Joyce Parkes.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE

Mr. Albert Brown of H.W. Machine Co. Ltd., is to marry Miss Doreen Peacock at Easter.

SILVER WEDDING

We offer congratulations to Mr. Billy Hopper (Pattern Shop) Stockton Steel Foundry who has just celebrated his Silver Wedding.

RUBY WEDDING

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Addison (Maintenance Dept.) who have recently celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Plant



Harold Cartwright
Enid M. Thurlwell

Fred Mothersdale
Rita Husband

Donald Raper
Annette Griffiths

HEAD WRIGHTSON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Our last production in December, "Champagne for Breakfast," (see photograph above) a light comedy, proved very enjoyable and entertaining in the opinion of everyone who saw it, with the exception of the critic from the "Evening Gazette." This gentleman disliked the theme of the play, a honeymoon where nothing went right, and not even the excellent performances of the members of the cast, nor the beautiful "Contemporary" setting provided by the workshop, could persuade him to moderate his views. Unfortunately, there is little doubt that his opinion influenced the attendance, as our receipts were considerably down on our average. Another cause of this may have been that the play was staged very near Christmas, and that many of our regular patrons were so busy with holiday preparations that they were unable to come. We must certainly bear this in mind another year.

However, we hope to make up for this set back by a really rousing success with our next production, the last of the present season, which will be staged on May 2nd, 3rd and 4th. This will be "Night was our Friend," a very dramatic thriller, which some of you may have seen on T.V. recently. It is certainly a very great contrast to our last production, so perhaps it will meet with more approval from the Press!

PERSONALITY PARADE

Miss Annette Griffiths, Engineering Division.

Annette is probably one of our best known members. She is a foundation member, and has played in a great variety of roles. It is, therefore, rather surprising to learn that up to the formation of the Head Wrightson Dramatic Society, she had done little acting since leaving school, and she confesses that in those days she was not particularly interested in the dramatic art. She did, however, take small parts in some school plays, of which she recalls particularly "Androcles and the Lion," in which

she played a Roman gladiator, and the "Dumb Wife of Cheapside," in which she did **not** play the "dumb wife."

Although after schooldays were over Annette appeared in some Church plays, she dates her serious interest in acting from the time when she was shown round the new Teesdale Hall by Mr. Shepherd, who mentioned the possibility of forming a Head Wrightson Dramatic Society.

Annette took part in our very first production, "When We Are Married," as Ruby, the cheeky young maid. She made such an impression in this role that members of an old-established Tees-side dramatic society who were among the audience tried to steal her services. However, Annette remained true to Head Wrightson's. In the second production, "On Monday Next," she played a very different role as the dumb blond repertory actress "Daphne," complete with small dog (borrowed). After appearing as Paddy in "The Feminine Touch," and as the bride's married sister in "Quiet Wedding," she had her first leading lady role as Elizabeth Bennet in "I Have Five Daughters," and played it very successfully. Last season, she appeared twice, in very contrasted roles. First, in the highly dramatic part of Sheila Birling in "An Inspector Calls," and second, as the gormless maid, Cicely, in "The Camel's Back." In our last production, "Champagne for Breakfast," Annette was once more leading lady, as the newly-married bride, giving an excellent performance, which was greatly appreciated by the audiences.

Apart from her acting career, Annette has done very good work in the scenic workshop, where her artistic talents have been in great demand, particularly for scenic backcloths behind "windows." She has also served on the Committee. Altogether, for a young lady who had no serious interest in acting until a few years ago, she has had a most distinguished career with the Society, to date, and we hope it may long continue.



By courtesy of "The Northern Echo."

ENGINEERING DIVISION

Our photograph shows a scale car, the first of three ordered for service in a blast furnace plant which is being built in Northern Spain, being shipped. The car is being supplied completely assembled except for certain minor parts which have been removed to prevent their being damaged. The overall length of the car as shipped is 42', its overall height 16' 3", its overall width 9' 6" and its weight 44 tons. The car was lifted from Head Wrightson's wharf by the Tees Conservancy Commissions floating crane which carried it down river to the ship which was to take it to Spain.

When in service the Scale Car, which is driven by electric motors, carries the iron ore which is to be fed into the blast furnace and weighs the quantities used. The twin hopper of the Car has a capacity of 500 cubic feet and the Car can carry loads of up to 25 tons. These cars play a vital part in the operation of the plant and are, accordingly, of elaborate and robust construction, incorporating many safety devices.

Machine Shop

Our second Annual Dance, held on 27th January was voted a big success by the 250 members of the department and their friends who attended. We should like to express here our gratitude to the Canteen Staff for their help on this occasion. We were pleased to have with us Messrs. Sturges, Shepherd and Purnell of the Management and Mr. Allen and Mr. Cryer of the Shop staff.

One by one our eligible bachelors are weakening and the latest to take the plunge is Bill Wallace. Bill is well known in sporting circles of the organisation, having served on most Committees. The lucky girl is also a member of our department, Miss James of the general stores. Our best wishes to them.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of two

of our best liked workmates. We extend our deepest sympathy to the widow of the late Alf Rose. Alf was 74 and was at work until the day before his death. He had worked in the Machine Shop since 1918. We offer our sympathy, too, to the widow and family of Mick McWilliams, who has worked with us over the last few years. A more popular workmate it is difficult to imagine.

His countless friends will be pleased to hear that the latest news of "Dick" Addison is much more encouraging. We hope that the improvement will continue.

The shop looks forward to the early return of Harry Syson and Jack (Friend) Martin.

IRON FOUNDRIES DIVISION

We would like to extend to Mr T. R. Addison (Crane Driver) our deepest sympathies on the loss of his mother.

We wish a speedy recovery to Mr. L. Hainsworth (Machinist) who is in Manor House, London, and also Mr. T. Simpson (Blacksmith) who is also in hospital, and trust they will soon be fit and well again.

We welcome back Mr. Frank Maine (Foundry Management) who has been away for a short time with phlebitis.

We would like, at the same time, to extend to all members of the Staff who have been or who are at present absent with the seasonal 'flu, speedy recoveries.

STEEL FOUNDRIES DIVISION

Teesdale

The production of valve castings for Crane Ltd., in all sizes from the small 3602 to the large 16" 33X is such a commonplace daily occurrence as to cause little, if any, comment. Up to the present, 16" 33X has been the largest size of cast steel valve manufactured by Crane Ltd., at Ipswich. However there is a growing demand from the Oil Companies for larger sizes and we are now to produce 18" 20" 22" and 24". As some of these large valve

castings are too big for our 4,000 lb. moulding machine, a new and unfamiliar piece of plant has made its appearance in the foundry — a sand slinger. If we can make a good job of these large valve castings, there is every prospect of very good future business.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. G. Carroll and family on the death of Mr. G. Carroll (Fettler) after a very long illness.

We wish a speedy recovery to Mr. N. Cummings and Mr. Frank Harris.

We are pleased to welcome back after their illness Mr. W. LaRoche and Mr. W. Winter.

At the time of writing, we are pleased to welcome to the Foundry Staff Mr. Ian Kirby who has graduated through the Apprentice School. We hope that he enjoys the work.

Stockton

The Division wishes a long and happy retirement to "Old Alf" Slater of the Pattern Shop.

They wish for the speedy recovery of Benny Whinn and Sid Burdett.

STOCKTON FORGE

Departures and Arrivals

After having worked in the Stockton Forge D.O. for over 45 years, and for the past six and a half years as Chief Draughtsman, we wish Mr. A. J. Wass every success in his new appointment with the Colliery Equipment Division.

Our deepest sympathies go to his widow and family. Mr. Addison was a man of extreme integrity.

The Forge Works' Staff held their first annual dinner on 22nd December, 1955 at the Black Lion Hotel, Stockton when a very enjoyable time was had by all. The guest of the evening was Mr. G. Cook, Works Manager. Dart and Domino Handicaps were a feature of the evening. After some keen competition the results were Darts — Winner — Mr. W. Heron, Runner-up Mr. G. Cook, Dominos — Mr. T. Turnbull — Runner-up Mr. A. Emerson. The arrangements for the evening were made by Mr. Suttill.

The Forge has, at the moment, quite a large number of absentees through sickness and hopes for their speedy return to good health. Amongst these are Messrs. W. Plumley, H. Todd, F. Hobbs, G. Rowe, J. Forrester, W. Sawdon, A. West, C. Grainger, B. Brown, W. French, L. Patchett, W. Watson, C. Willis, and W. (Bunt) McCullough.

They welcome back from the Forces Trevor Briggs and Paul Bently of the Fitting Shop and wish God Speed to Gordon Cost, Pattern Shop who is just embarking on his National Service.

The Division offers congratulations to W. Robson (Fitting Shop) who has attained his majority.

They are pleased to have with them again after almost a year in hospital, Gerald Russell.

Congratulations too, to Bernard Mannion of the Fitting Shop, who played "Strephon" in "Iolanthe" which was produced by the Tees-side Operatic Society.

H.W. STAMPINGS LTD.

We welcome to "Stampings" Mr. Fred Britton, from Teesdale.

We have left the festivities of Christmas and New Year behind and already holidays are being planned and arranged. It looks as though it will be "Stampings Abroad" this year, Austria, Switzerland, Spain and the Channel Islands are "firm favourites" so far.

Engagements and weddings are popular at "Stampings" lately. Recalling that this is Leap Year, may I just mention that your Magazine Representative is still eligible and open to offers. Only those between the ages of 40 and 60 years; need apply.

In a recent edition of our magazine, reference to one of our Draughtsmen on National Service (Allan Forbes), was made. A gentle hint was dropped that perhaps his most important "OP" would be his engagement. We are very pleased to learn that this has taken place, as the Staff have watched with interest, this office romance.

Members of the Staff spent an enjoyable evening at Newcastle on 30th December, when a visit to Pantomime, organised by Mesdames Hagon, Russell and Coulson was made. Additional entertainment was provided by the "Bobby Soxers," who were willingly "sent" by Dickie Valentine.

We are happy to have with us that Grand Old Man "Tutty" Smith.

In March, he will attain his 83rd birthday and the 2nd April will mark his 71st year with the organisation. He has proved a keen and hard worker, who would never give in until he had mastered any job given him.

We are proud of our association with this "Grand Old Man" of the Organisation and wish him every comfort and happiness in these, his twilight years.

"Stampings" 2nd Annual Dance was held in Teesdale Hall on Friday, January 20th. Once again it proved a great success. Mr. Peter Wrightson, Mr. George Jones, General Manager of "Stampings" and Mr. Colin Bowron were in attendance and were seen to enter into the gaiety of things. I was pleased to partner Mr. Peter in the "Grand March," but beg forgiveness from those who may have thought they were on the "way out" — namely, the "Exit Doors."

To illustrate the carefree friendly atmosphere, one of



We welcome back to the Stockton Forge D.O., Mr. A. W. Hunter from the London Office, as our new Chief.

Mr. R. A. Shaw takes over from Mr. A. W. Hunter at London Office, and we wish him every success in his new appointment.

It is with deep regret that we record the sudden death of Mr. Wilf. Addison who has been with our firm for over 50 years. Mr. Addison, an extremely well-known figure at the Forge, was also a friend of many of the older employees throughout the organisation, both on the staff and in the works.

the highlights of the evening, was the version of the "Samba," by a member of "Stampings" staff. No names, mind you, but he's a confirmed bachelor and could be "Bob," of a famous vocal pair.

Our thanks to all who attended and helped towards the success of the evening and a special vote of thanks to the following:— Mesdames J. Davison, I. Gibbon and J. Hall. Messrs. L. Nelson, K. Patterson, R. Thomas and D. Williams (Committee) and Mr. F. Shepherd, who so ably acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Members of the Staff and friends visited Leeds on 28th January, when a visit to the evening performance of a Pantomime rounded off a very pleasant day. Our thanks to Mr. Jack Mitchell (Heat Treatment Dept.), who organised the outing.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to the following:— Edward Crossling (Stamp Shop) injury to foot. James Middlewood (Heat Treatment) road accident.

Tommy Gibson, our Chief Electrician, is having his share of troubles, at the moment. Not only members of his family are indisposed, but Tommy himself is absent through sickness. Let us hope that brighter times lie ahead for you and yours.

HEAD WRIGHTSON MACHINE COMPANY

News in General.

Staff Welfare and Benevolent Fund

A very enjoyable party was held in the Acklam Cafe, Middlesbrough, on Tuesday, 3rd January 1956, when over 50 children of the members were present for the entertainment provided.

Plenty of ice cream, pop and cream cakes were consumed and at one stage of the proceedings fears grew that some of the participants would explode. However, they somehow managed to contain themselves until the end of the function and staggered out of the door after receiving a bar of chocolate which was to be consumed, probably, on the way home.

Father Christmas was there again this year and each child received, as one of them said, "a wonderful present."

Peter Barker, who was there to chaperone his kiddies, looked very fearfully at the chisel, hammer, etc., which were presented with a view to knocking his furniture around.

I was told that Father Christmas had a severe panic when dishing out his presents to the children as, nearing the end of the sack, he noticed two little girls with lips trembling and, as Father Christmas could not see any more presents in the sack, a tearful situation was avoided by his nipping off to Toyland for a couple of extra boxes of sweets which were duly presented to Sheila and Jennifer Batty, who heard Father Christmas whisper in a hoarse voice "Just wait a while and I will get two more parcels from the chimney."

Squeakers were well to the fore and these also had to be taken away by the organisers under threat of death, as three of the helpers collapsed under the strain.

Our tame cameraman, Ray Bargewell, was there again and got some good shots of the children at the table and at play. Copies may be obtained from him at a nominal charge.

Our thanks for this wonderful party go to our worthy Secretary, Mr. Gartry, and our Chairman, Ron Burley, who again officiated as the "Man in Red" this year.

Office Topics by S.E.

We understand that a stork has been hovering over a certain chimney pot in the Darlington area and many of us are wondering what percentage that poor little stork will get on delivery.

Who was the most eligible bachelor in the Machine Company who was seen flat hunting recently? We can-

not of course, take this as anything definite, but we wonder if wedding bells are in the offing.

We have learned, with regret, of the death some time ago of Mr. Leonard Buchanan who, for a number of years, worked in our Tracing Office.

We were pleased to see Bill Atherton the other day when he dropped in from New Zealand to say 'Hullo' to the boys in the Drawing Office.

One of our spies reports that John Bewley, of the Drawing Office, has fitted yet another windscreen to his motor cycle — the third, I believe — and this time he paid for it!

The Annual General Meeting of the Staff Welfare and Benevolent Fund took place on Tuesday, 7th February, with Mr. Lake very kindly acting as Chairman for the evening.

For the record, the following members were elected to represent you:

Committee Members

Representing Technical Staff

R. Smith, (D.O.) R. Burley (Sales) G. Beckwith, (D.O.) E. Jopling, (Sales).

Commercial Staff

J. McKenzie, (Estimating) E. Horton, (Estimating).

The Ladies

Mrs. R. Bradley, (Print Room) Mrs. M. Dinsdale, (G.O.).

Works Office and Administrative Staff

T. Frosdick, (Ratefixers) K. Monkhouse, (Fitting Shop).
Mr. T. Frosdick was elected Chairman for the coming year.

I am told that one of our members is on 'unspeaking terms' with the arm of the law and, in fact, has received a ticket on his windscreen. We suggest he finds another street to park in, in York!!

Topical Notes by "DAT"

Recently, some of our engineers were discussing take-off points for Flying Shears. Greatham Airport was suggested, which is rather fantastic when we consider that that beloved Irishman, Flying Mike, can take off from a 16 gauge plate.

Then of course, there was the Flying Hot Saw about to take off from a lorry at Corby Works when the lorry fell down a hole.

All we want now is a Fly-over Table for the Canteen to give service at supersonic speed.

Stork News by Marg!!

Congratulation to Mr. and Mrs. Geoff Waller on the birth of their son Stephen Guy Sherratt. This happy event took place on New Year's Eve. A jolly good start for the New Year for the happy couple! We know Geoff has two old crocks in his backyard, but wonder if he is now aspiring to a 'bus from the names he has chosen.

Messrs. G. Begg, Bob Reed, Jack Oldroyd and Eric Loach and Misses K. Davis and H. Rogers are ill. We hope that they will soon be back with us.

Freddy White, Griff Durham and Nick Williams have done their stint in the forces and are back amongst us again. Ken Grange has joined the Merchant Navy and Geo. Bird has gone to do his National Service.

We welcome amongst us, Mr. Oscar D'Cunha from Bombay.

The Middlesbrough Staff Benevolent Fund organised Table Tennis Competitions and the results were as under:—

Singles — Winner — Mr. F. Skidmore, Runner-up Mr. Ian Atkinson.

Doubles — Winners Messrs. F. Skidmore and T. Smith, Runners-up Messrs. W. Gartry and W. Elstrop.

Apprehensive glances are being directed towards Mr. Harry Foster who has embarked on a diet.

McKEE IRON & STEEL DIVISION

From the Arctic depths of the bottom of Trafalgar Street, we are contemplating sending this brief article to Head Office either by St. Bernard dog or a sleigh driven by a team of huskies and fervently hope that, by the time it appears in print we will be enjoying a considerable improvement in the weather.

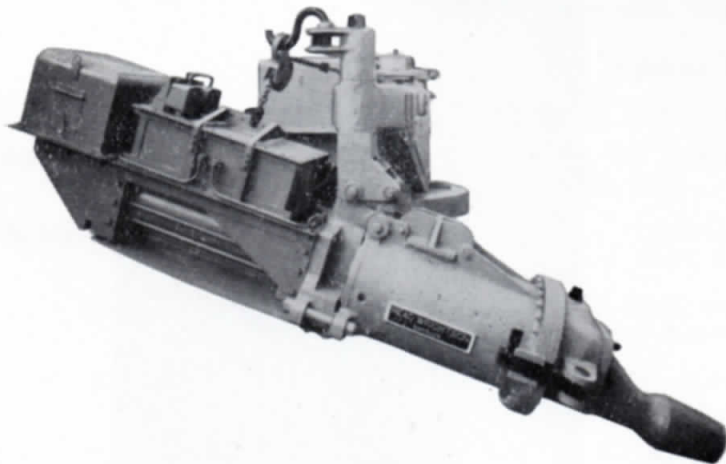
We should like, through the pages of this magazine, to congratulate our South African office on obtaining their first ever order for a complete Gas Cleaning Plant comprising two Gas Washers and two Electrostatic Precipitators. This plant will be engineered and manufactured almost entirely in South Africa from design drawings supplied by us and we hope that the order is to be the forerunner of many more of a similar nature. A hearty welcome is extended to Mr. Burnand and Mr. Mather, who have come over to discuss the engineering of the contract. Bob Mather, who is to spend some six weeks with us, has already settled down and is pursuing his activities with zest and vigour in spite of the unaccustomed sub-zero temperatures.

The peace of the office was rudely shattered at Christmas time by the return of our Progress and Planning Engineer, Mr. John Bradfield, from his eleven months sojourn in Spain where he has organised materials for the Ensidesa contract with his usual efficiency. We understand that our inspection staff are highly delighted to be able to indulge once more in the wordy battles of a not too serious nature.

In early February, José Correa returned to his native Spain after spending some five or six months with the firm and we sent him off with the wish that all he had managed to learn would be of help to him in his future career. That he enjoyed his brief stay in England, you may read elsewhere in this issue.

The many friends of Tom Eckford will be sorry to read that he has been ill for some considerable time and has recently undergone an internal operation. However, the latest news we have is most reassuring and we are looking forward to welcoming him back to the fold in the near future, in good time for the bowling season, we hope.

The Division would like to congratulate Miss Rita Husband and Mr. Stewart Waites, both of the Drawing Office Staff, on their recent engagement, also Mr. and Mrs. Ron Higson on the birth of their son.



9 CU. FT. ELECTRO-HYDRAULIC CLAY GUN

The photograph shows a newly designed Electro-Hydraulic Clay Gun which has recently completed shop trials. The gun, which is used for the plugging of Blast Furnace tap holes after casting, has a clay capacity of 9 cubic feet and is capable of plugging the tap hole against the full flow of molten iron. We at present manufacture an Electro-Mechanical Clay Gun but it is anticipated that, in addition to being cheaper, the new unit will be more efficient in operation and will require much less maintenance. Arrangements are being made for this unit to undergo operational trials on a local Blast Furnace.

HEAD WRIGHTSON COLLIERY ENGINEERING LIMITED

Thornaby

As you will see, the old title "Colliery Equipment Division" no longer appears, for on the 1st February the amalgamation of Colliery Engineering Ltd. of Sheffield and this division took place. The newly formed company with the title given above was brought into being, and under the Chairmanship of Mr. Peter Wrightson with Messrs. Cussons, Needham and Casson on the Board of Directors, went into operation as one unit. Although geographically separated, having offices in Thornaby, Sheffield, Manchester and Newcastle, close liaison is kept between all "branches" and it is intended that they will all play their part in ensuring that the name of "Head Wrightson Colliery Engineering Ltd." is well to the fore in the reconstruction and new work being carried out for the National Coal Board.

In this connection it seemed most appropriate that the "Colliery Engineering Ltd" annual dinner dance should take place early in February and although many members of the Thornaby Staff were unable to attend, quite a number were able to be present and the reports on their return made it evident that a good time was had by all, every one having been made most welcome by their colleagues in Sheffield. For the kindness and hospitality shown, the Thornaby Staff would like to say a sincere "Thank you" to Sheffield.

The 1st February was quite a day for it was then that another important event took place — Mr. Wass, who was the personality in the December 1955 issue of "Wright Ahead." came to Thornaby from the Forge to be Chief Draughtsman of Head Wrightson Colliery Engineering Ltd., Thornaby. There is no doubt that with the considerable experience and knowledge he has acquired during his many years with the Company, he will be a most invaluable addition to the staff. Of course, he is extremely well known to the "founder members" of the Colliery Equipment Division and it is certain that all other members of the staff will join in their respect for Mr. Wass.

Sheffield

Colliery Engineering Ltd., and the Colliery Equipment Division have now been "married" to function as a single company. Each section will continue to be responsible for its own specialist work and are at present busily engaged in the design of coal handling and preparation plants for the National Coal Board. Work on new plants is in hand and it is expected that there will be more orders to fulfil in the near future.

While the design of plants for the handling and treatment of coal is the primary concern of the company, other fields are being actively explored. At the present time, the company is particularly interested in mechanical handling and mineral dressing plants, which are having the attention of the Sheffield office.

Staff Dinner and Dance.

Once again this delightful function was held in the Royal Victoria Hotel when a goodly company made merry. We were very pleased to have Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wrightson with us, together with members of the Staff at Thornaby with their ladies.

Our guests included representatives of the National Coal Board and Sub-Contractors, who were warmly welcomed by Mr. Peter Wrightson when he spoke of the past history and future aims of the Company. Mr. W. G. Harper, on behalf of the National Coal Board representatives, and Mr. W. M. Wallace, on behalf of the Sub-Contractors, responded to the welcome.

We welcome Mr. Lamplugh, who has joined the Sheffield Staff from Thornaby to guide the Mineral Dressing Department.

Messrs. F. T. Gilthorpe and N. Link, of our Erection Dept., were involved in a road accident, from the effects of which they are rapidly recovering, and we look forward to their speedy return to work.

A welcome to Brian Pike on his return from National Service.

We offer our hearty congratulations to Miss E. Wright (Head Tracer) on her marriage to Mr. E. Nash, and to Mr. J. M. Plant (Draughtsman) on his marriage to Miss J. Moody.

Mr. A. Mason recently left the Company to take up an appointment with the National Coal Board. On the 23rd December, 1955, his colleagues made a presentation to him mark the occasion, and to wish him success in his new work.

Presentations to Mrs. E. Hopper and Mr. J Waller

Before a large gathering of colleagues including Mr. Peter Wrightson, Managing Director and other senior officials of the Company, Sir John Wrightson, Vice-Chairman of Head Wrightson & Company Limited, made a presentation, on behalf of the staff, to two long service employees, Mr. John Waller, Chief Buyer and Mrs. Hopper, Head Quarters Private Secretary, on the occasion of their retirement.

Sir John referred to the 54 years of loyal service which Mr. Waller had given and paid tribute to his business acumen in always being able to procure the necessary materials for the varied products of the organisation. He referred more to some of the outstanding contracts which had called for unusual steel sections and, in particular to the Bridge at Lagos, recently mentioned in the Press during the Queen's visit to Nigeria.

Sir John recalled that when he and his brother visited the works as young boys, Mrs. Hopper had looked after them and paid tribute to her succeeding years of faithful service, mainly concerned with matters of a confidential nature. The presentation to Mr. Waller was a bureau and that to Mrs. Hopper a substantial cheque which she intends to use in purchasing a Television set.

In his reply Mr. Waller made the following remarks:-

"In these days of record breaking, I hope I may be permitted to name one or two records I hold so far as Head Wrightsons are concerned.

- 1 In my 54 years service I have served under three generations of the Wrightson family.
- 2 Under five Secretaries.
- 3 I have crossed the Victoria Bridge on foot over 50,000 times and have walked upwards of 80,000 miles to get to work, and from it.

In 1952 I received a clock in recognition of 50 years service and I was called upon for a short speech; part of this I am repeating which I hope will interest some of those who were not present at the function.

When I started at Head Wrightsons in 1902, the Commercial staff numbered about 20, practically the whole of whom were accommodated in what, up to recently was the Purchasing Department, the office ending at the archway at the end of that Department. At that time we had no typewriters and all letters, orders and invoices were handwritten and copied by a method now only seen in museums and at Stoney Middleton.

In those days, inter-communication was done by means of a blow-pipe, running from one office to another with a whistle in each end, and to attract attention you blew down it at your end which made a blast at the other.

Then came the telephone, and with it an hitherto unknown language at Teesdale.

With the 1914 war came the introduction of females into the office, and an instruction that males and females were not to be seen at the same time in the corridor. The males were even required to go to lunch at a different time to the females. Showing how times have changed, we have recently had marriages following courtships carried out in the same corridor.

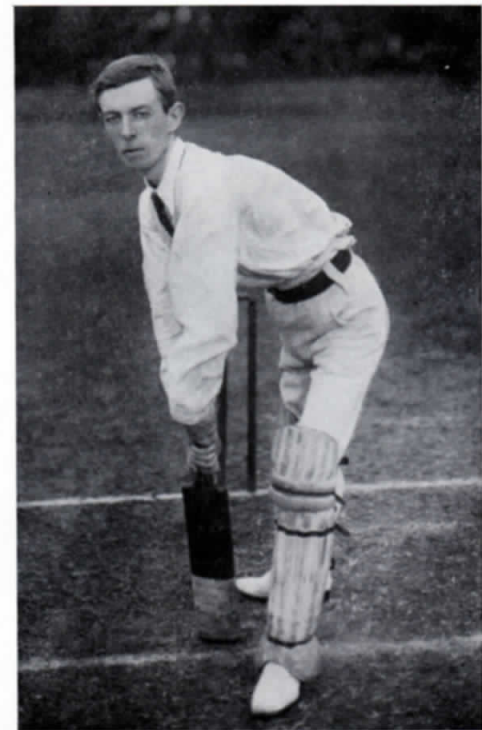
Motor cars were, of course, unheard of in Trafalgar Street and any one wanting to go to the Bank, or to Stockton, would beg a lift from "Little-Bob" on his flat cart."

Mrs. Hopper replied very suitably to the good wishes which had been offered to her and said how she would enjoy having a Television set in her home.

Editor's Note.

Among the many interesting achievements of Mr. Waller, we learn of his prowess as a cricketer and we publish a photograph of him in 1896 together with his score card which shows that he took 59 wickets for 99 runs, during that season!

Date	No. of Wickets	For Runs
May 5	7	6
12	4	22
26	6	14
June 2	6	12
9	0	0
13	3	8
16	3	1
23	3	10
30	5	2
July 7	6	12
14	7	3
21	8	3
28	1	6
	<hr/> 59	<hr/> 99



Mr. J. Waller in 1896

Further tributes were paid to Mr. Waller by his own staff at a dinner party which Mr. Waller gave and at which Mr. A. Lackenby acted as compere. Entertainment was provided by various members of the staff and the following ode which was sung to the tune of "Mountains of Mourne" by the girls, was composed by Sheila Cross.

ODE TO MR. JOHN WALLER

Oh, the Buying Department's a wonderful sight,
 When the orders come flooding by day and by night.
 The draughtsmen are standing with work in a queue,
 For they think that our typists have nothing to do.
 From Progress there comes a most agonised squeal
 That the works are all stopped, for they've got no more steel.

The atmosphere's heavy with threats and with yells,
 And the sweet background music of telephone bells.

The buyers are begging right down on their knees,
 "Dear Flo, will you get us one more number, please"
 The invoice clerks' sighs are resounding for miles,

As they sit there surrounded by dockets in piles.
 We order them chase them and invoice the lot,
 From Nuclear Test Rig to new Canteen pots,
 And in the hereafter we sure that our goal
 Will be ordering halos, or will it be coal?

But it's not all hard labour, we're cheerful folks,
 And we still have our laughter, our fun and our jokes.
 And gathered tonight at this party so fine,
 We just want to send our good wishes in rhyme
 To our boss Mr. Waller, who's leaving us soon.
 May his memories be happy the theme of our tune.
 To him and his lady we wish all the best,
 Long may he enjoy a good well-earned rest.

We have been requested to publish an up-to-date list of our Social & Athletic, etc., activities : and names of the responsible officials. They are as below :—

TEESDALE HALL

Catering Manager — Mr. V. Spence
 Hall Manager — Mr. J. Rickelton
 Secretary — Miss E. Thurlwell

Tees-side Colour Film Society	Mr. J. B. Milnes, (Sec.) Works Office.	Tuesday evening — each week
Institute of British Foundrymen	Mr. Frank Shepherd, President & Secretary	Friday evening — monthly
Head Wrightson Dramatic Society	Miss E. O'Hara. (Sec.) McKee Division.	Weekly
Miniature Air Rifle Club	Mr. E. Cooker, (Sec.) Constructional Dept.	Monday and Wednesday evenings
Head Wrightsons' Band	Mr. J. E. Burton, (Sec.) Alloy Shop.	Wednesday evenings and Sundays
Head Wrightson Salon Orchestra	Mr. Richard Blakey, Musical Director, Personnel Dept.	By arrangement.

Athletic Sub-Committee

Cricket	Mr. H. Wilson, (Sec.) Stockton Forge	Interdepartmental Matches
Football	Mr. J. H. Dickenson, (Sec.) Maintenance, D.O.	Cup & League Matches — Interdepartmentals
Bowls	Mr. A. Littlewood, (Sec.) Constructional Dept.	Cup & League Matches — Interdepartmentals
Lawn Tennis	Mr. E. Slack, Steel Castings, Mr. K. Proctor, Accounts (Joint Secs.)	Tournaments & Matches
Table Tennis	Mr. J. H. Dickenson, (Sec.) Maintenance D.O.	Cup & League — Interdepartmentals
Swimming	Mr. H. Ayre, (Sec.) Fitting Shop, Stockton Forge	Swimming Gala. Fortnightly Club Night at Stockton Baths.
Darts	Mr. W. E. Bartaby, (Sec.) Stockton Steel Foundry.	Leagues, Tournaments — Interdepartmentals
Entertainment	Mr. T. H. Harper, (Organiser) Constructional Dept.	Concerts, etc., in Club.

Welfare Sub-Committee

This committee is responsible for organising :-

Old Age Pensioners' Outing, Old Age Pensioners' Xmas Gifts, Children's Christmas Pantomime, Annual Fruit and Vegetable Show.

H. W. PERSONALITY

MR. R. HIGGIN

Eggescliffe Foundry

Mr. Higgin, who has been with us since 1903, works at Eggescliffe Foundry. He previously worked in the Iron Foundry at Teesdale. He worked first in the chair and segment section — pouring hot metal. Later he changed over to slinging in the ingot shop where again the metal was in the hot state.

At the present time, he is helping sling cold metals as he doesn't stand the heat so well nowadays. He says he has worked hard all his life and thinks the discipline to-day is not so good as it was in his early days.

In spite of all the amenities provided at the new foundry at Eggescliffe, Mr. Higgin preferred life at the old foundry at Thornaby because he was not involved in the travelling difficulties which have been so trying during this extremely hard winter.

Mr. Higgin has resided in Thornaby all his life and would not like to move from there — even if he won the 'Pools.

Mr. Higgin came to visit us in our new office block and expressed admiration of the wonderful arrangements which were now made for staff.



USEFUL DEFINITIONS

In the *Justice of the Peace and Local Government Review*, the following list is described as a "guide to expressions used in Government and Local Government circles.":

Phrase	Interpretation
"Under consideration"	Never heard of it.
"Under active consideration"	Will have a shot at finding the file.
"In abeyance"	File still missing.
"Is receiving very careful consideration"	A period of inactivity covering the time lag.
"I should be glad of your further comments"	Can you give me some idea of what it is all about?
"Putting him in the picture"	A long, confusing and inaccurate statement to a newcomer.
"You will remember"	You have either forgotten or never knew.
"Passed to you"	You try nursing the baby; I'm tired of it.
"In conference"	He's gone out and I have no idea where he is.
"Kindly expediate reply"	For heaven's sake, do try and find the confounded papers.
"Passed to a higher level"	The papers have been sent to a more sumptuous apartment.
"Estimate"	A shot in the dark.
"For action as necessary"	Do you know what to do about it? We don't.
"Concur generally"	Have read the document, but don't want to be bound by anything I say.
"Strongest protest"	I should like to be rude to you but I daren't.
"It will be appreciated"	Don't you understand, you damn fool.
"You must improvise"	We can't supply it, so you had better scrounge it.

Av Jose Antonio 655,
Barcelona,
Spain.

18th February, 1956.

The Editor,
"Wright Ahead."

Dear Sir,

May I, through your publication, thank Messrs. Head Wrightson & Co. Ltd., for the opportunities they have given me of seeing the workings of the various Departments and visiting other Plants, and assure them that the experience I have gained will be of great value to me in the future.

I particularly wish to thank the Staff of the McKee Division for all the help they have given me and for the great kindness and hospitality I have received during my stay.

On leaving, I should like to say "Adios" to the many friends I have made and thank them for making my stay in England such a happy one. On some future occasion I hope to see them all again.

Yours faithfully,
José Luis Correa.

Editor's Note

This letter which has been received from a student observer who spent 5 months at our works is published in toto.