Winter 1968

Wright ahead

The Head Wrightson Magazine

Editorial

This edition reaches most of our readers on the eve of a New Year. A time for reflection. Despite the national mood of despondency and continuing economic uncertainty we at HW can look to the future with renewed confidence following the progress of our consolidation and achievements during 1968.

The year opened with the merger of HWISWEL and HWPEL to form Head Wrightson Process Engineering Limited, and closes with the merger announcement of HW Stockton and HW Teesdale companies. This is all part of a strengthening of the position of Head Wrightson.

We had achievements with our traditional products and also with our new. From the highly successful blow-in of the Head Wrightson blast furnace at Kwinana in Western Australia to the winning of two major refuse incineration plant contracts for the Cities of Birmingham and Exeter.

During the year we formed HW (Sudamericana) Ltd, with an office in Buenos Aires and with Taylor Woodrow Construction Limited formed Taywood Wrightson Ltd, to secure a management contract for the Invergordon Aluminium Smelter. Negotiations are currently proceeding with the formation of a joint company in Spain.

Our efforts to obtain orders and to reduce costs are beginning to have effect and although the way ahead will not be easy we can all feel satisfaction in our work of the past year and confidence in the year to come.

We have every right therefore, to be cheerful. Let us send our greetings to the 'Exiles' whether in Africa or Australia or Southall, and look to a good 1969 for us all.

Appointments

Mr R Z Barr has been appointed a Sales Director of Head Wrightson Process Engineering Limited. Mr Barr will be based in London and will have particular responsibility for export sales.

Mr N C Lake, Deputy Managing Director, Head Wrightson & Company Limited has been re-elected President of the Metallurgical Plantmakers' Federation for the second year.

Mr W H Adams, Director, Head Wrightson & Company Ltd and Managing Director of Head Wrightson Process Engineering Limited and Taywood Wrightson Limited has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Ironmaking and Steelmaking Plant Contractors' Association.

Mr R Purnell, General Manager & Director HW Teesdale Ltd has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Tank and Industrial Plant Association.

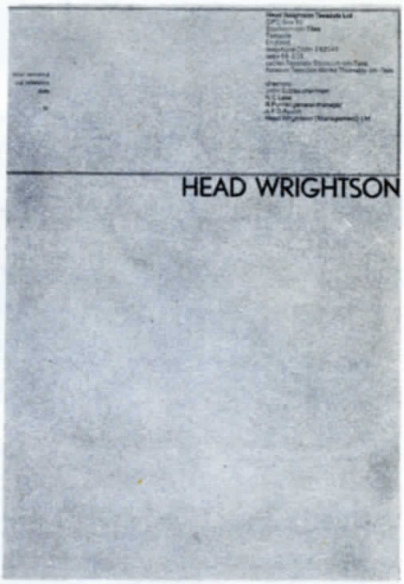
Merger of HW Teesdale and HW Stockton

It has been announced that the amalgamation of the two companies will take effect as from 1 February 1969. The company will be known as Head Wrightson Teesdale Limited and the Directors will be

Mr John Eccles *chairman*
Mr. N. C. Lake
Mr R Purnell *general manager & director*
Mr A Snaith *production director*
Mr A F G Austin *engineering director*
Mr M G Hipkins *metallurgical director*
Mr E J Robinson *sales director*
Mr R W Wright *engineering manager & director*

The new Head Wrightson corporate identity

Since October a new corporate identity for the Company has begun to emerge. It is becoming familiar in publicity and stationery. Gradually it will be applied to transport, factory and office signs and certain parts of group premises.



The housestyle should forge a clear, visual link between the various Head Wrightson group activities based on the name style shown on this page and the house colour which is silver supported by black. Silver is a good metallic colour and capable of distinctive use.

The British National Export Council says: 'Design has a part to play in every aspect of a company's operations. An effective design policy is one in which all design activities are planned as a co-ordinated system which will provide the company with a corporate identity.

The eventual aim of a total design policy should be to create a recognisable style which unites every possible aspect of the company's operations.'

In other words it must reflect what the company is and what its real achievements are.

Early in the year Gray Design Associates were appointed by Head Wrightson as graphic and display design consultants. As advisers to the Marketing Department they are involved in a total design policy for the Group.

It will take some years to apply corporate identity throughout the company and the speed of application will depend upon the speed at which corporate thinking is adopted throughout. We are not just members of a subsidiary we are all members of Head Wrightson.

Corporate ability is the material, corporate communication the means, and corporate identity expresses the corporate ability.

Corporate Identity + Corporate thinking = Corporate Success.

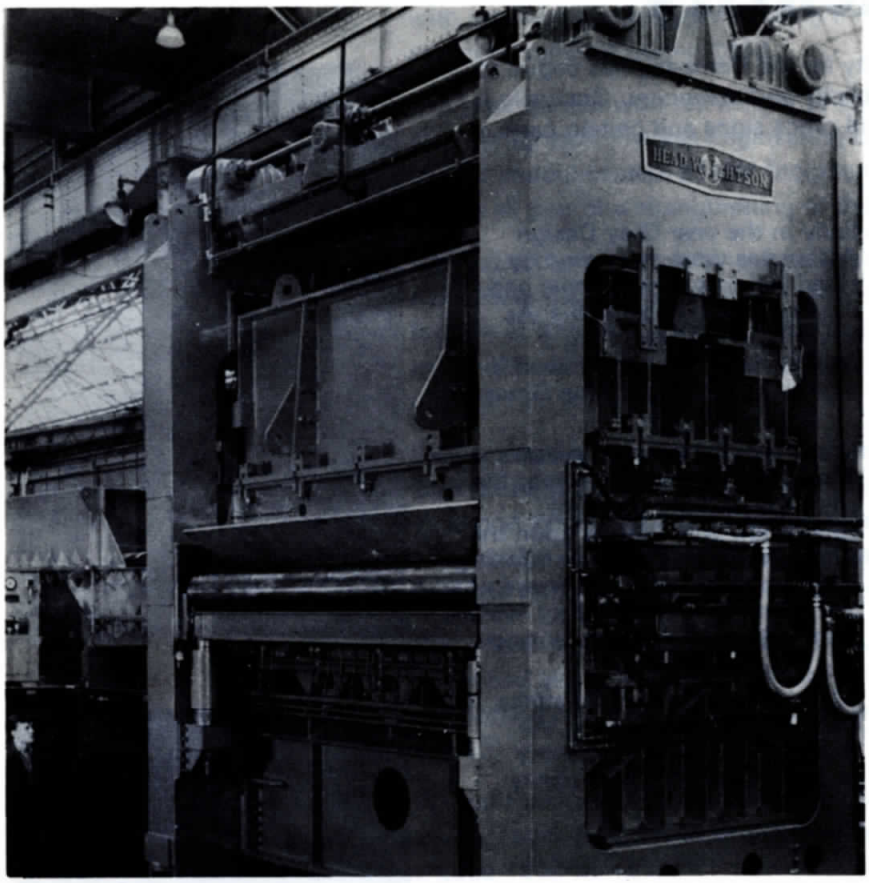
Prosperity is the end result of corporate achievement.

HEAD WRIGHTSON

This company is a major heavy engineering company with large manufacturing facilities, precision capabilities, skill in design, good financial resources and teams of skilled works personnel organised by modern management. Above all, it has experience, enterprise and integrity. How do you express all this in one picture? Yet that is the corporate identity we wish to portray.

Design Policy
They are primarily concerned in design of those items which communicate and in, communication, these items express the corporate image of the Head Wrightson Group. Stationery, advertising layouts, leaflets and brochures, exhibition displays are only the beginning.

Product News



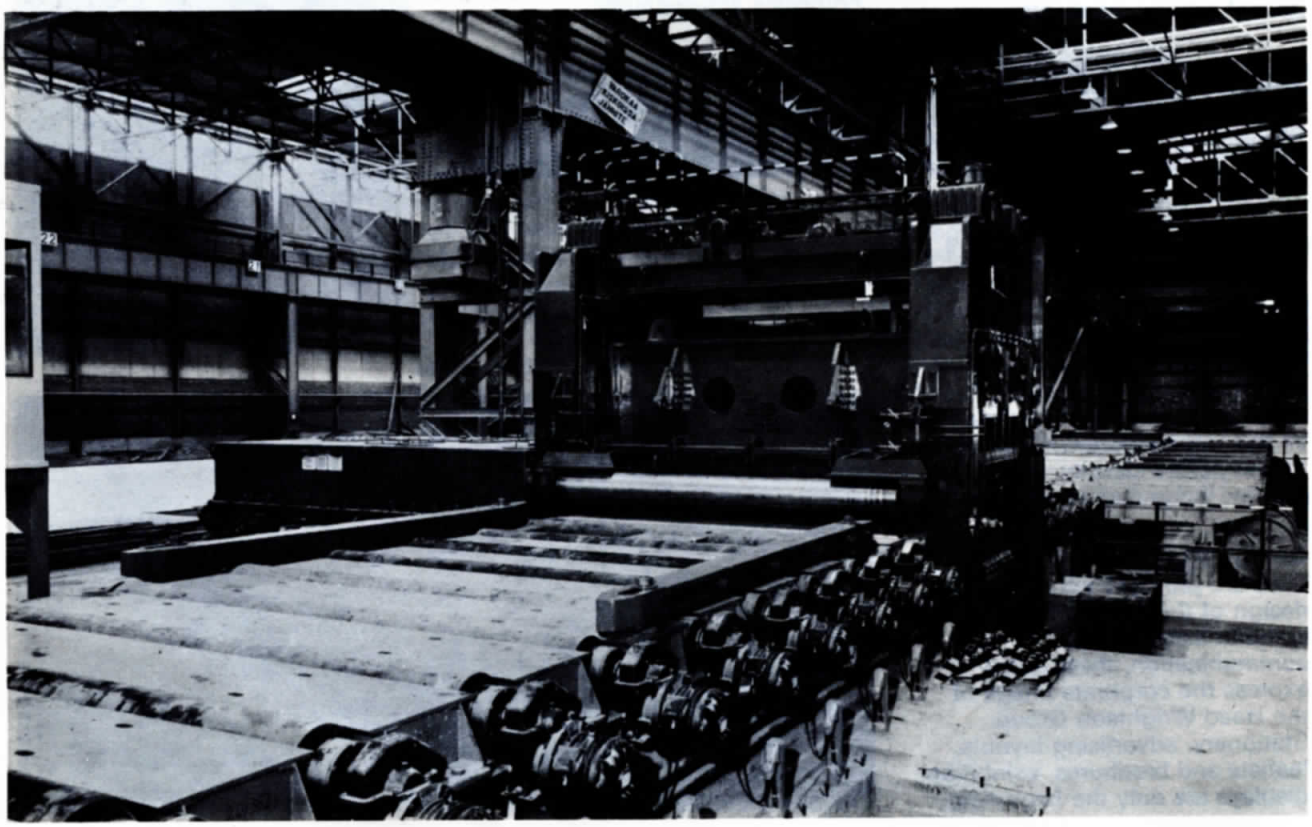
The hot plate leveller for South Durham Steel & Iron Company

Hot plate levellers

HW Machine Company recently supplied two hot plate levellers to the Northern and Tubes Group of the British Steel Corporation. The photograph (left) shows one of these levellers prior to despatch from Middlesbrough works to the Hartlepool South Works of the South Durham Steel and Iron Company Limited. This is a nine roll backed up leveller weighing 160 tons, and will flatten steel plates from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch thickness in widths up to 12 ft. The second leveller was delivered to the Lackenby Works of Dorman Long (Steel) Limited. This machine will flatten $\frac{1}{4}$" to $1\frac{1}{2}$" thick plates up to 74" wide.

In recent years Machine Company have supplied over twenty plate levellers to steel works both in this country and overseas. The photograph below shows one of the three hot levellers built by HW Machine Company for Rautaruuki Oy– Finland's first integrated steelworks.

One of three hot levellers built by HW Machine Company for Rautaruuki, Finland



Product News (cont.)

Cooling towers

HW Process Engineering (London), is responsible for the design, supply and erection of mechanical induced draught cooling towers under license from the Fluor Products Company Santa Rosa USA

HW Cooling Towers and Fin Fans form part of the vast heat exchange equipment to be found in refineries, petrochemical plants, chemical plants, steel works and gas works in the British Isles and through our licencees throughout the world.

In the North Eastern area alone, HW cooling equipment has been installed at the ICI works at Billingham and Wilton; at the Shell refinery at Teesport; at the British Steel Corporation at Cargo Cargo Fleet and Hartlepool; at the works of Sadler & Company Limited, and also at C A Parsons & Company Limited, Newcastle.

Cadbury's 'Smash'

Cadbury Bros effluent treatment plant at Blackpole

Head Wrightson Process Engineering (Sheffield) have been active in the field of treating food processing effluents for many years and have a number of plants in operation or under construction They are currently installing a waste treatment plant at a large new factory of Cadbury Bros. which will produce the new " Smash " potato product.
The new factory is located at Catterick Bridge and the site is visible from the A1.
Our effluent treatment service is operated jointly by the ' Nalfloc ' Water Treatment Service of ICI Limited and HW Process Engineering Limited and is designed to cover all stages in the solution of municipal and industrial effluent problems.

Not just shaped pieces of steel

Chain links made in Hartlepool hold supertankers fast in the shipping roads of the world; forgings for the renowned earth-moving equipment of Caterpillar Tractor Company Limited; flanges for oil industry's complex pipe-lines; parts of agricultural tractors ploughing the fields of developing countries; tie-rods for bridge and harbour construction; and forgings for heavy vehicles moving goods throughout the world; these are typical products of HW Stampings.

This was the theme for an interesting static display for HW Stampings which was on exhibition in Victory Square, Hartlepool for a month during the summer.

Taywood Wrightson contract

Taywood Wrightson Limited is a jointly owned company by Taylor Woodrow Construction Limited and Head Wrightson & Company Limited. The partnership was formed for the purpose of submitting a tender for the construction of the British Aluminium Company Limited £37m smelter which is to be built at Invergordon in the North of Scotland.

Seven consortia groups which included twenty-one leading British mechanical, electrical and civil engineering companies submitted bids for the new smelter.

British Aluminium appointed Taywood Wrightson Limited as main contractor for the project, with responsibility for providing management, engineering, procurement and construction services.

Taywood Wrightson will be responsible for the issuing of enquiries and receiving tenders and will act as Agents for British Aluminium in the placing of contracts for the project. They will also be responsible for supervision and progress of the project.

Design of the plant is to be supplied by Reynolds Metals Company of America, a major shareholder of British Aluminium. Construction will take approximately two and a half years and the capacity of the smelter will be 100,000 tons per year.

The directors of Taywood Wrightson Limited are
W H Adams *chairman and managing director*
D A J Ballinger
John Eccles
F R Gibb
James Iveson *secretary*
R J Puttick

The office of the company is located in Ruislip Road, Southall, Middlesex.
Various Head Wrightson services will be utilised on the project including H W (Management) H W Research & Development Division and H W Teesdale's construction department

Head Wrightson personnel already transferred to Taywood Wrightson Ltd include
K Home (HWPEL Thornaby)
chief project engineer
M G Street (HWPEL Thornaby)
chief electrical engineer
J P Elliot (HWPEL Sheffield)
cost control manager
A G Findlay (HWPEL London)
purchasing manager

Studying a relief model of part of the Moray Firth development in the Inverness offices of the Highlands and Islands Development Board are (left to right)
R E Utiger *managing director* The British Aluminium Co Ltd
John Eccles *director* Taywood Wrightson Ltd
W H Adams *chairman and managing director* Taywood Wrightson Ltd
Sir James MacKay *member of* HIDB
D A J Ballinger *director* Taywood Wrightson Ltd
F R Gibb *director* Taywood Wrightson Ltd

Illustration of the layout of the proposed British Aluminium Smelter at Invergordon. The " ghost " buildings indicate areas of planned expansion. This view is from the north looking towards the town of Invergordon and across the Cromarty Firth to the Black Isle.

How aluminium is made

Aluminium is the most abundant metal in the earth's crust, although it is not found in metalic form. The natural ore of aluminium is bauxite, and there are four stages by which it is converted into the familiar light and bright metal.

Bauxite is largely found in equatorial and sub-tropical regions and is usually extracted by open-cast mining. There are no economically workable bauxite deposits in Britain.

Looking like a red sandstone, bauxite consists of the oxide of aluminium (known as alumina). combined with iron oxide. After mining, bauxite is crushed and screened, then shipped to an alumina plant for the next stage of treatment.

To extract the alumina, the bauxite is mixed in a heated solution of caustic soda. The alumina is dissolved out and roasted in oil-fired rotary kilns into a pure white powder. It takes two tons of bauxite to produce one ton of this non-toxic and chemically inert powder. (Later two tons of alumina make one ton of aluminium).

The iron oxide residue from the bauxite is left as a red mud. This is a harmless waste and is nowadays generally disposed of by dumping far out to sea, where it sinks to the bottom without danger to marine life or to beaches and estuaries.

The production of aluminium metal from alumina is commonly called smelting, but this is a misleading description since the process bears little relation to the smelting of iron.

The separation of the oxygen from the alumina to leave the metallic aluminium is achieved by electrolysis. Just as a schoolchild in the laboratory breaks down water into hydrogen and oxygen by passing an electric current through it, so alumina is separated into aluminium and oxygen by the use of massive quantities of electricity. It takes about 18,000 kWh to make one ton of aluminium —roughly the equivalent of a two-bar electric fire switched on for more than a year.

The reduction process takes place in a cell, or pot. This is a steel box about 25 feet by 10 feet, open at the top and lined with carbon. Since alumina is non-conductive, it has to be dissolved in an electrolyte, or flux, for a current to be passed through it. For this purpose,cryolite, a natural rock mined in Greenland, is melted at about 950° centigrade by the heat of the electric current.

To admit the current to the cell, carbon anode blocks are suspended above the pot and dipped into its molten contents. The electric current—100,000 amperes or more—passes from these anodes through the molten bath and out via the carbon lining of the cell, which acts as the cathode.

The oxygen released from the alumina combines with the carbon of the suspended anodes, which burns away and releases carbon dioxide, the normal product of combustion. The liquid aluminium sinks to the bottom of the cell and is periodically removed by suction tapping.

The process is completely continuous, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, more alumina being added to each cell as the previous charge is exhausted.

The cryolite flux is largely unaffected by the process, but there is some carry-over into the carbon dioxide gas of the fluorides of aluminium and sodium it contains. For this reason, the gases generated are collected at each furnace and ducted into a treatment plant. This not only renders the final effluent innocuous but permits the costly flux compounds to be reclaimed for re-use.

Rows of cells in the plant are connected in a single electric current series, or potline—up to 200 of them at a time, according to the size of the smelter. Parts of the plant are hot, but there is no noise and no smell.

As metal is tapped from each cell, it is transferred to holding furnaces where it is alloyed as required and then cast into solids as ingots, rolling slabs, extrusion billets or wirebars ready for the fourth and final phase of production.

Changing the form of the cast shapes that come from the smelter is known as semi-fabrication. The object is to make forms of metal to suit industrial users needs. The main semi-fabrication processes are rolling, extrusion and drawing. Aluminium slabs are rolled in a great variety of widths, gauges and alloys into plate, sheet and strip, and thin coils of strip for rolling into foil.

Extrusion is like squeezing toothpaste out of a tube, where the soft paste takes on the shape of the harder nozzle through which it is passed. Heated aluminium billets are forced through steel dies to form rods, tubes and sections.

Aluminium wire, stranded cable for power lines and insulated cable for general electrical use are made from cast wirebars, which are hot rolled and drawn down to whatever size is required.

The end uses of aluminium are limitless. More are being developed all the time. often the metal is seen in its natural condition, like the foil tops of the nation's milk bottles. Often it is disguised, like the painted sheeting that characterises the new power stations. Aircraft, holloware, roofing—the traditional markets for aluminium continue. But today there are newer uses like kitchen foil, garden furniture, parapets for motorway bridges, components for rockets and space satelites, cylinder blocks for car engines, armour plate and office partitioning.

Head Wrightson have for many years used aluminium alloy in varied applications, contracts included the Sunderland and and Aberdeen bascule bridges, London Airport hangar doors, bailey bridge components, aerial and radar towers, crane girders, roof-trusses, launching trusses, shallow water craft, colliery plant and greenhouses.

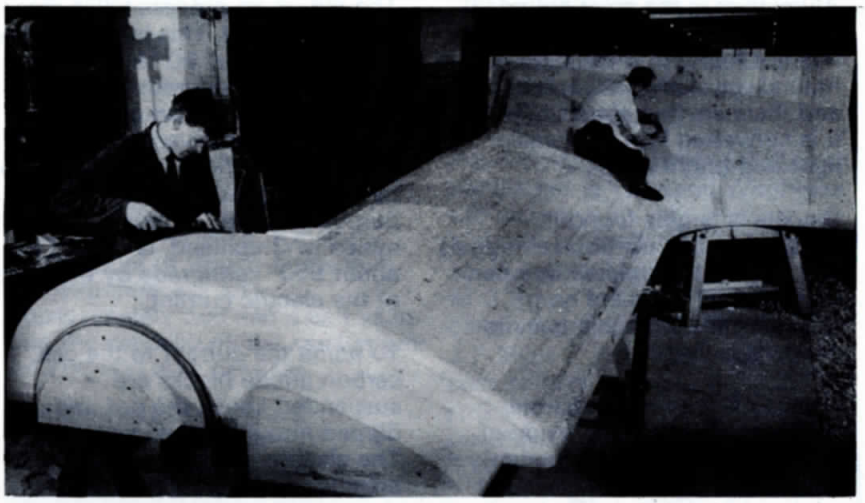
Export orders for the foundries

Steel castings for Brazilian shipyards

HW Steel Foundries have received two major orders for cast steel stern gear for six ships under construction in Brazil.

Each order is for three sets of castings comprising stern frame, stern frame boss and rudder carrier. The value of the order exceeds £100,000 and the total weight of castings to be supplied is approximately 360 tons.

The Steel Foundry has been making ships' stern gear for many years but these are the first to be exported to a foreign shipyard.



Making the pattern for the stern frame

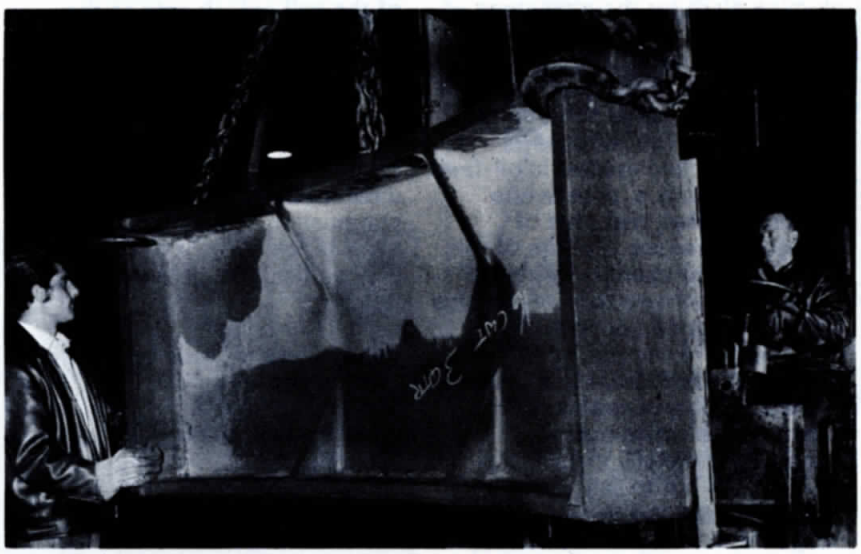
Cast Iron Tunnel Segments for New York

A contract valued £850,000 for the supply of 10,000 tons of cast iron segments has been won against strong international competition by HW Iron Foundries. The segments will be used in the construction of the first part of a major new sewer complex beneath Manhattan, New York.

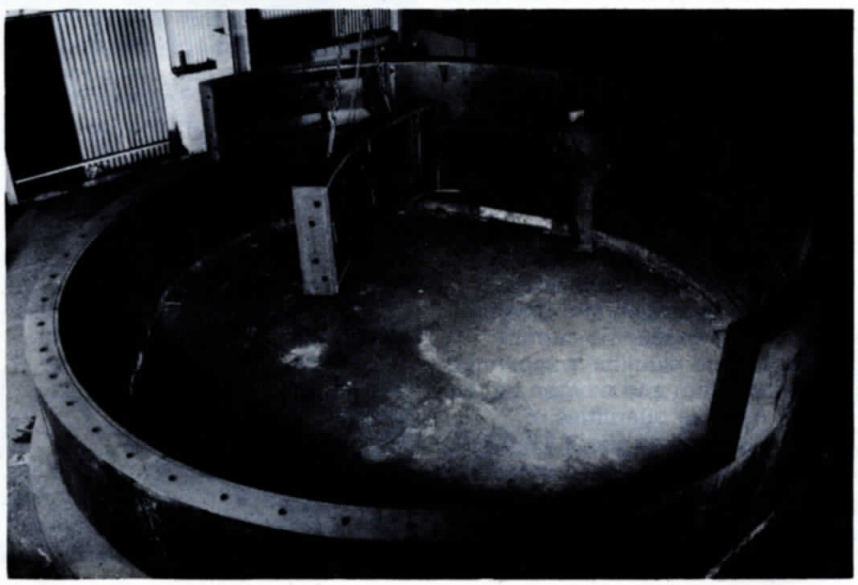
The segments will be supplied fully machined and drilled. High quality control and precision being essential to the alignment of the rings.

The tunnel is made up of 1350 straight rings and 220 taper rings for providing bends in the system. Each ring, consists of ten segments bolted together and will provide an 18ft 7in bore tunnel stretching some two thirds of a mile long.

The castings are being shipped from Middlesbrough to New York in five special shipments beginning end of November with completion in March 1969.



Prototype cast iron tunnel segment prior to drilling, machining and painting



Test erection in the foundry of a completed tunnel ring consisting of ten segments bolted together providing an 18′ 7″ opening

Export promotion activities

Mr Peter Rooksby, Director of HW Process Engineering Limited and Mr C C Cowell, Resident Director of HW (Sudamericana) Limited attended the International Conference of the Latin American Steel Institute held in September in Lima, Peru.

A Head Wrightson film, one of three British films chosen for showing at the Conference, featured continuous galvanising lines manufactured by the HW Machine Company Limited.

HW also took part in two overseas exhibitions during October. The first was at the International Trade Fair at Plovdiv, Bulgaria where our stand featured the steel plant activities of HW Machine Company and HW Process Engineering Limited. The modern display presentation included, photographs and line drawings of strip processing equipment, tube plants, oxygen steelmaking, sintering, pelletising, and gas cleaning. Mr R Olley of HW Machine Company was our representative on the stand during the exhibition.

The second exhibition was at Bucharest, Rumania where HW joined with other members of 'ABMEX' (Association of British Mining Equipment Exporters) at a British Industrial Exhibition.

Our display featured the mining activities of HW Stockton and HW Process Engineering and illustrated the fully automatic coal preparation plant at Bevercotes Colliery, which was designed and engineered by Head Wrightson. Other products projected in the display were equipment for crushing, grinding, blending and mineral dressing.
Being the President of ABMEX Mr L W Needham of HW Process Engineering was resident on the stand during the exhibition.

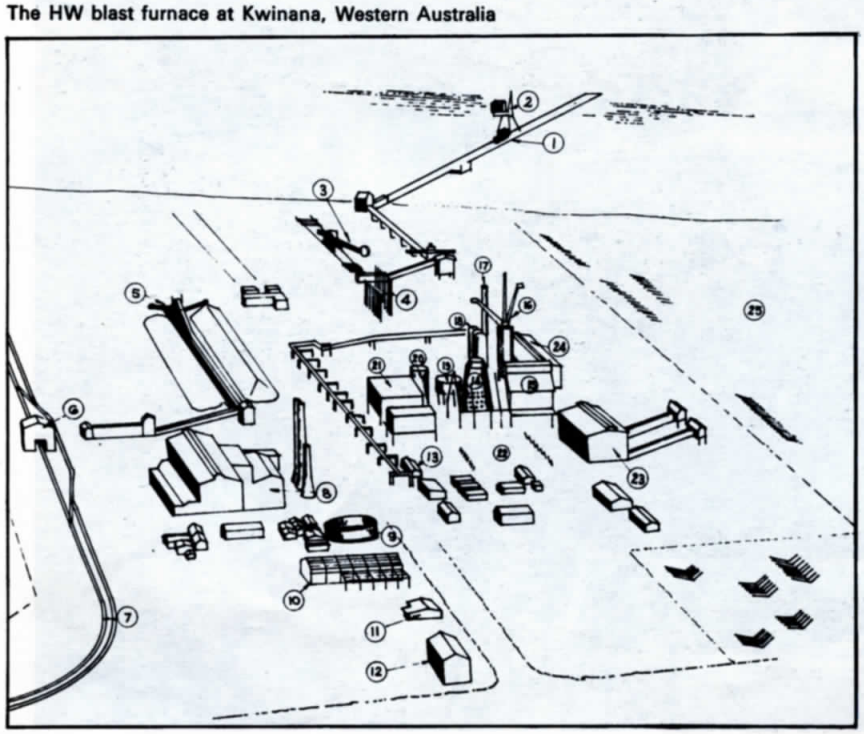
Blast furnace at Kwinana, Australia

Western Australia's first blast furnace was " blown-in " on the 15 May 1968, and the new integrated iron and steel works located near the ocean at Kwinana, Perth was officially opened on November 19.

The blast furnace and ancillary equipment was built by Head Wrightson (Australia) Pty Limited for Australian Iron & Steel Pty Limited a subsidiary company of The Broken Hill Propriety Company Limited and is the 11th BHP iron blast furnace in Australia. The contract, awarded against strong international competition, covered the design, supply, manufacture and construction of the plant including civil engineering work. The design and engineering was carried out by Head Wrightson Process Engineering Limited at Thornaby (formerly HWISWEL) and certain specialist equipment was manufactured at Thornaby

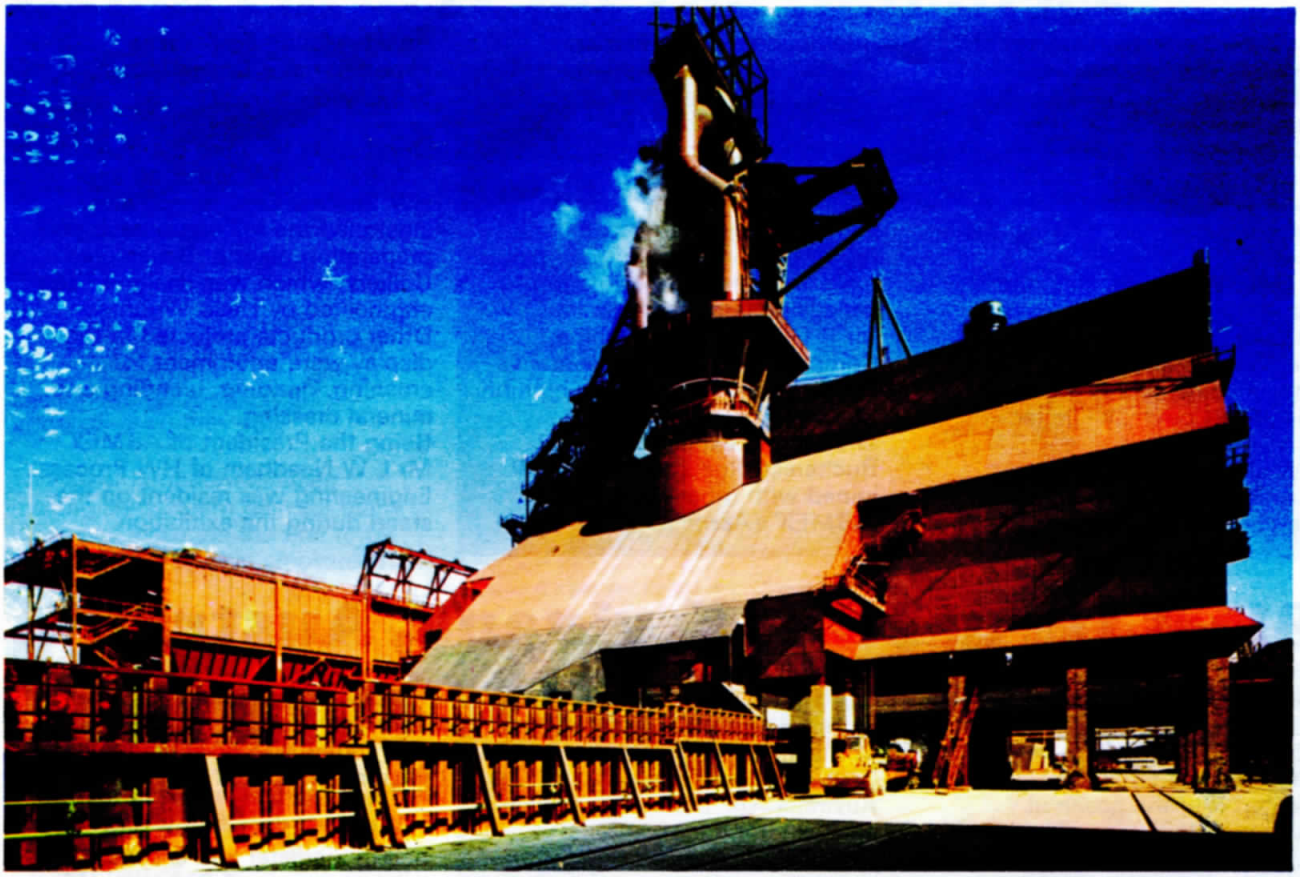
The blast furnace has a 26ft. hearth diameter and is scheduled to produce over 2,000 tons of iron per day. The plant is of advanced design and incorporates fully automatic charging and stove changing equipment.

The HW blast furnace at Kwinana, Western Australia

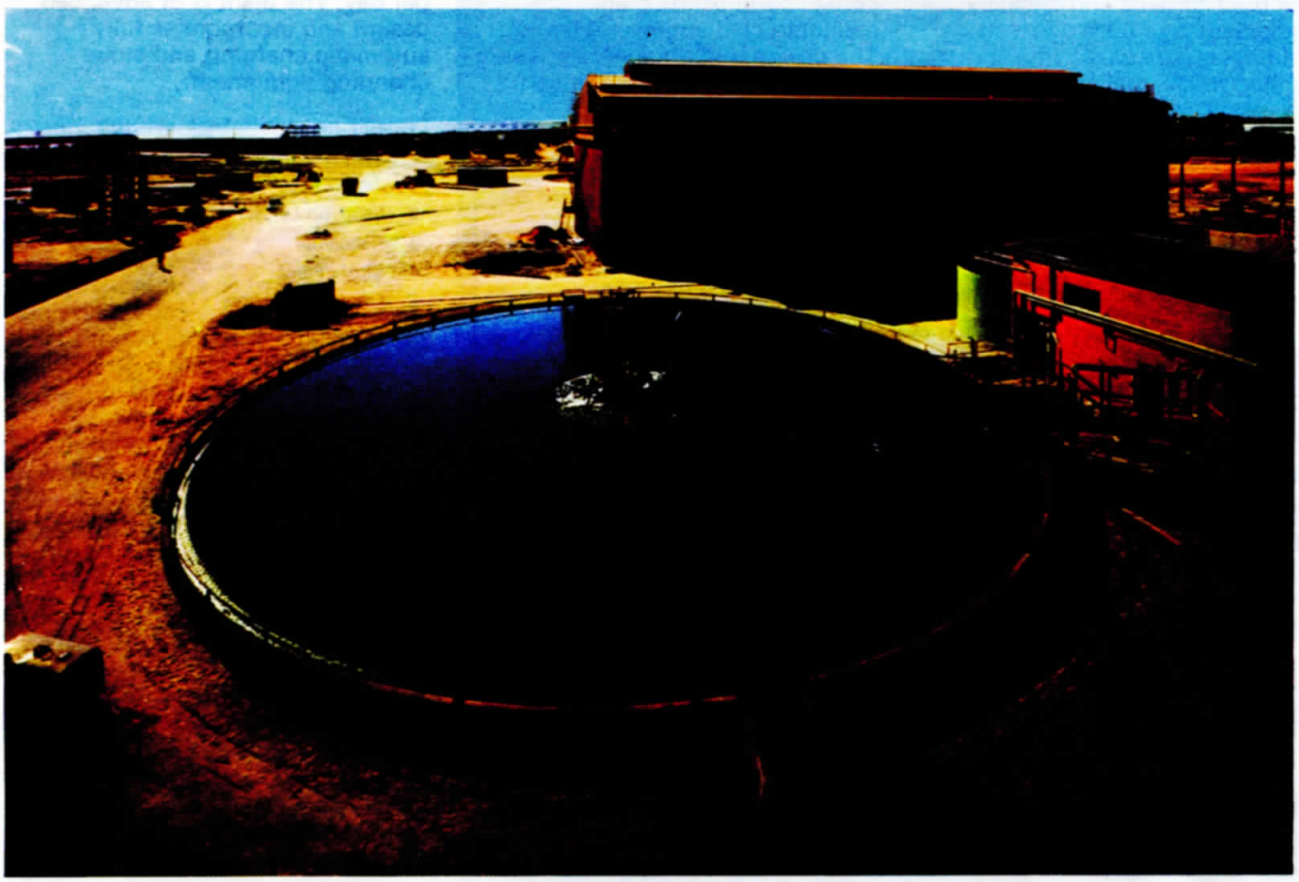


1 Jetty
2 Load-on Loader
3 Reclaimer
4 Sinter Plant
5 Ore Bedding Area
6 Wagon Tippler
7 Std gauge railway from Koolyanobbing
8 A I S Power Station
9 1 million gallon FW Reservoir
10 A I S Workshops
11 First Aid Station
12 A I S Amenities Block
13 H W A Site Office
14 Furnace
15 Cast House
16 A I S Tower Crane
17 Stove Stack
18 Stoves
19 Dustcatcher
20 Gaswasher
21 Stockhouse
22 Slag Pit Area
23 Pig Casting Machine
24 Clay Preparation Building
25 A I S Mill Storage Areas

Kwinana, Australia

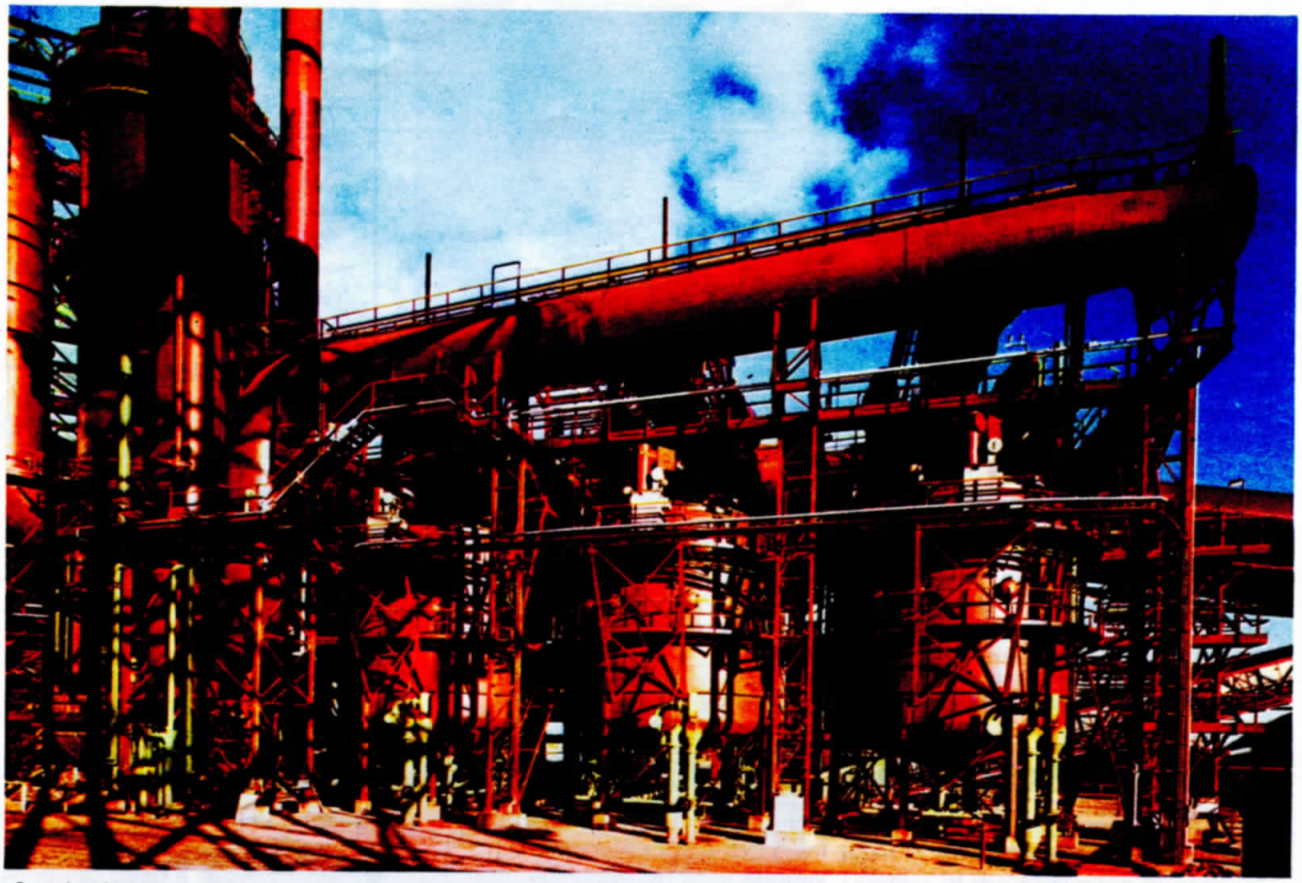


View of the plant from the East showing the Blast furnace, the cast house. the stock

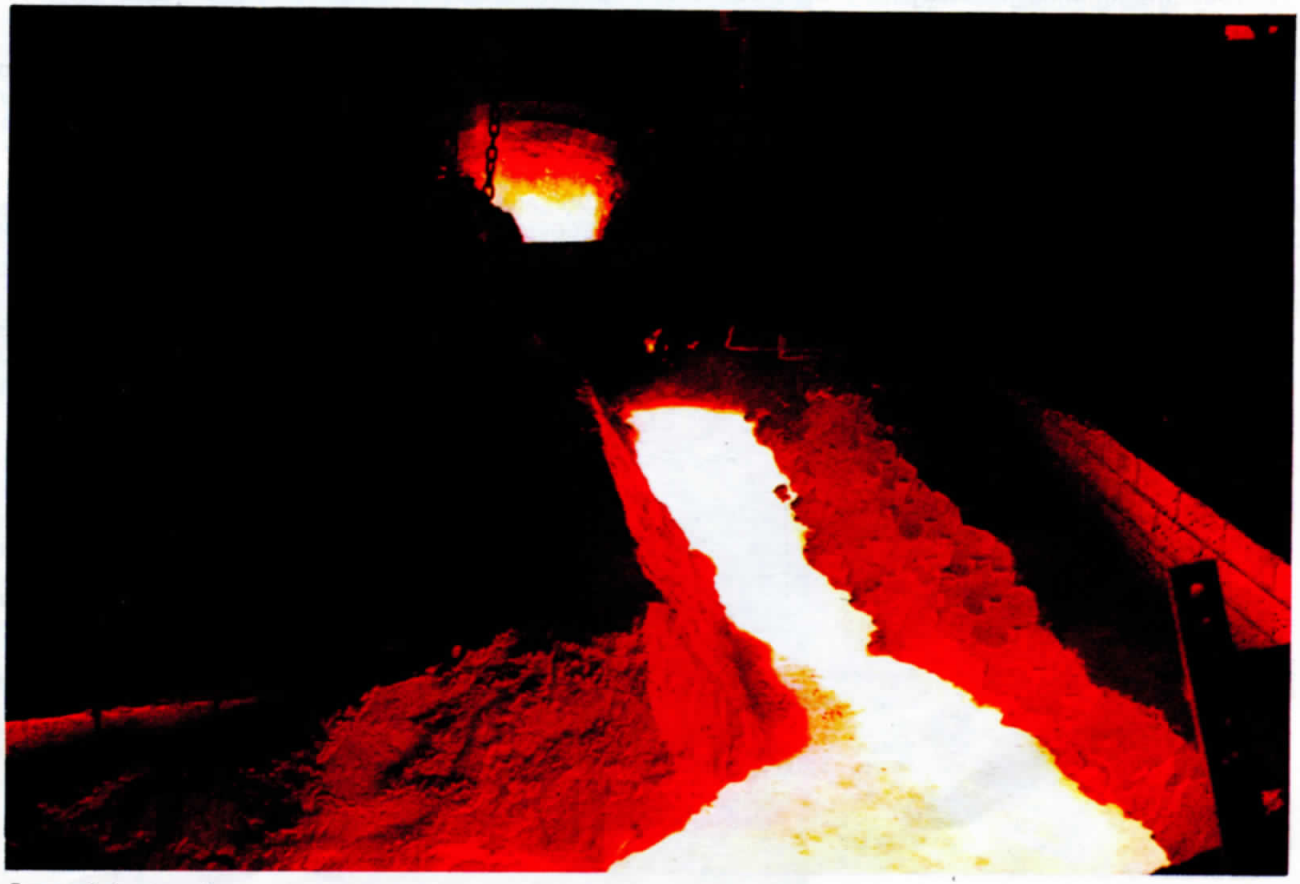


Effluent treatment plant

Kwinana, Australia



Gas cleaning plant



Furnace being tapped

South America way

South America has certainly been in the news lately with the Olympic Games and the Royal visit. This vast continent is also news for Head Wrightson, for the Steel Foundries have received two major orders for the supply of steel castings for Brazilian ships. We have also established a South American company in Argentina with an office located in Buenos Aires. Mr C C Cowell is the Resident Director of the new company which is styled Head Wrightson (Sudamericana) Limited, Mr Cowell was formerly with Head Wrightson Export Limited and was also Resident Manager of Head Wrightson Espana Limited in Madrid.

Mr C C Cowell *resident director*

Head Wrightson are certainly no strangers to South America, where we were exporting in the 1890s. In recent years this continent has made dramatic economic progress and achieved a rapid increase in industrial production. It has developed both industrially and financially and presents a growing market for capital and industrial goods, often of a highly sophisticated type.

We extend our good wishes for the successful development of this new Head Wrightson company and also to 'our man' in Buenos Aires.

Ore dressing equipment in Ireland

HW Ore Dressing Equipment in Ireland

In 1962, Mogul Mines Limited of Toronto, Canada began an exploration programme and feasibility study into the mineral deposits of the Silvermines area of Nenagh, Eire.

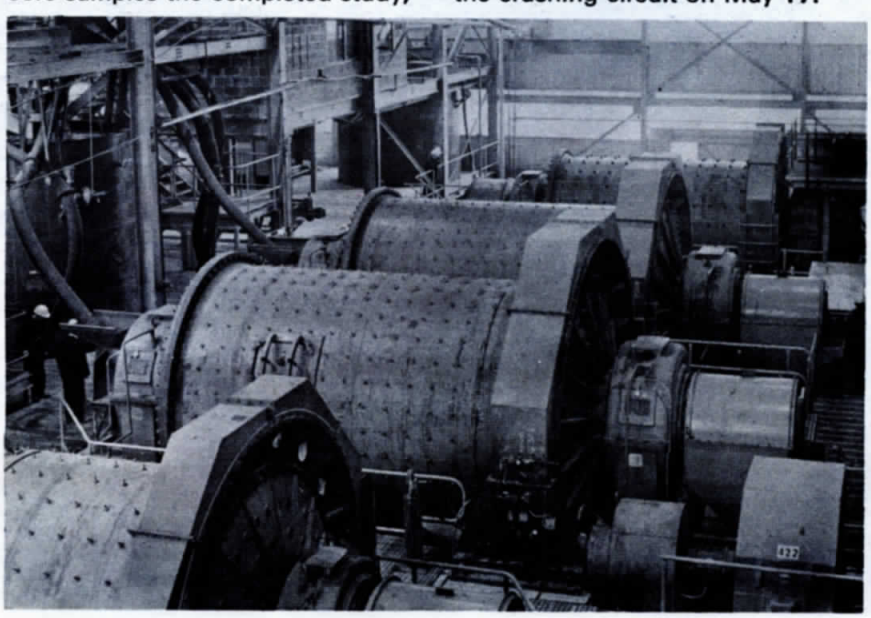
Following the extensive metallurgical test work which was carried out on representative drill core samples the completed study, some three years in preparation, indicated a sound economic venture to bring the lead-zinc-silver deposits into production. Mogul of Ireland Limited began shaft sinking and established what is possibly the largest underground base metal mine in Western Europe.

Plant construction was completed by the end of April 1968 and the first mine ore was introduced into the crushing circuit on May 17.

Grinding commenced on May 20 and the first concentrates were railed to Foynes a deep sea ocean port on the Shannon Estuary some 47 miles from the mine.

The plant was officially opened on the 11 September. HW Stockton manufactured all the mills for the Mogul concentrator complex which is designed to treat 3,000 tons of ore daily. The ore being massive sulphides containing lead and zinc with minor amounts of silver. The grinding and drying processes follows the primary crushing underground. The fine ore is fed into a Head Wrightson rod mill 9½′ dia x 16′ at a rate of 130 wet tons per hour. This is followed by the secondary stage grinding in two rubber lined HW ball mills 11½′ dia. x 17′ and a regrind 9′ dia. x 12′ HW ball mill completes the grinding circuit.

The lead concentrate is dried in a 54″ dia. x 35′ long HW rotary dryer fabricated in stainless steel while the zinc concentrate is dried in a 90″ dia. x 60′ long mild steel HW dryer.



Head Wrightson Stockton mills in the Mogul grinding circuit.

PERSONALITIES

Thoughts for 1969

To our retired personnel, particularly the 'young in heart veterans' warmest greetings for the New Year.

To our sick personnel we send best wishes for a speedy return to good health.

Good wishes have been particularly requested for Miss Margaret Haslock of HW Teesdale Purchasing Department who is in Middlesbrough General Hospital.

Due to an unfortunate motor accident on August 3 Margaret sustained multiple injuries and has since been confined to her hospital bed with both legs in traction. Despite the serious nature of her injuries she has throughout remained cheerful and in good spirits. A splendid example to those of us who have less to complain about.

Photograph shows Mr Frank Brown, Director and General Manager, HW Stampings Limited presenting a stainless steel tea service to Mr Ken Lobb who has left HW Stampings after 13 years with the Company. A table lighter and alarm clock were also presented to Miss Ann Kerr who has foresaken the North East for the bright lights of London.

Dr P A Young who was Director of Research at Head Wrightson & Company Limited from 1956 to 1965 has been appointed Professor and Head of the Department of Applied Mineral Sciences at Leeds University. For the past three years Dr Young has been in Australia where he was Director of the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories in Adelaide.

Congratulations to Mr R I Hepburn of HW Process Engineering (Thornaby) who was joint runner-up for the 1968 Alfred Clayton-Hill Scholarship for the Advancement of Blast Furnace Technology. The results were assessed on two interviews, before a panel of judges from the Cleveland Scientific Institute, from which three candidates were invited to write a paper.

Mr Hepburn's paper was entitled the 'Handling and Preparation of Pellets for Blast Furnace Charging' for which he was awarded a cheque for 10gns.

James Conroy, one of our students presently in third year study for an Electrical Engineering Degree at Rutherford College of Technology, recently completed a four months period of training at the UKAEA Establishment at Harwell, Didcott, Berks.

The photograph (by UKAEA) shows James working on a Nuclear Physics development project involving an ion implantation machine

PERSONALITIES

Dave Lewis, a draughtsman at HW Teesdale has an unusual way of 'Fettling' his spare time. From being lead guitarist in a pop group he now takes an active interest in folk music. Playing the mandolin and guitar Dave lends his talent to the ' Fettlers ' Folk Group.

This group of five musicians is well known on Teesside, having started the first folk club in the area over six years ago. They are now equally well known throughout the country having won two international folk festivals, made several television and radio appearances, and recorded for Pye records.

The songs they perform at folk clubs and on television and radio, include many about the Teesside area and particularly the steel industry, this is quite natural since at one time or other, several members of the ' Fettlers ' worked for local steel firms.

At the end of the year they will be travelling to London to record an LP of Teesside songs, shanties and instrumentals. They have also been invited to take part in several programmes to be given a national network screening on Independent Television at the beginning of the New Year.

The ' Fettlers ' can of course be seen every Monday night at their folk club in the Talbot Hotel, Stockton.

CULTS

Perhaps motivated by sentimental or even patriotic reasons, or maybe it is the miserly spirit of Scrooge which has descended on the thousands of people joining in the biggest craze since the advent of commercial bingo. Yes, the mania is coin collecting or numismatics as the dictionary refers to this cult.

There are several well known numismatists at The Friarage and there are probably many more throughout the Company. Without doubt the trend started by the proposed introduction of decimal currency in Britain by 1972, for at least 6,500 million of our present coins will have to be withdrawn and replaced with decimal coins. Collectors are scrambling to complete year sets of the obsolescent series before invalidation takes over. The half-penny disappears on 1st August 1969 and the halfcrown bows out on New Years Day 1970. The imminent loss of the half-penny reminded many people of the withdrawal of the humble farthing in 1956. The 1956 farthing, of which 2m were minted, now retails for nearly £1 in uncirculated condition.

The most important factor governing the value of a collection is the condition of the coins, and obviously the better the condition the more money they will be worth when and if they are sold.

Using an Edward VII 1909 half-crown as an example it could be worth about 45/- in 'circulated condition' but £40 in 'Brilliant Uncirculated.'

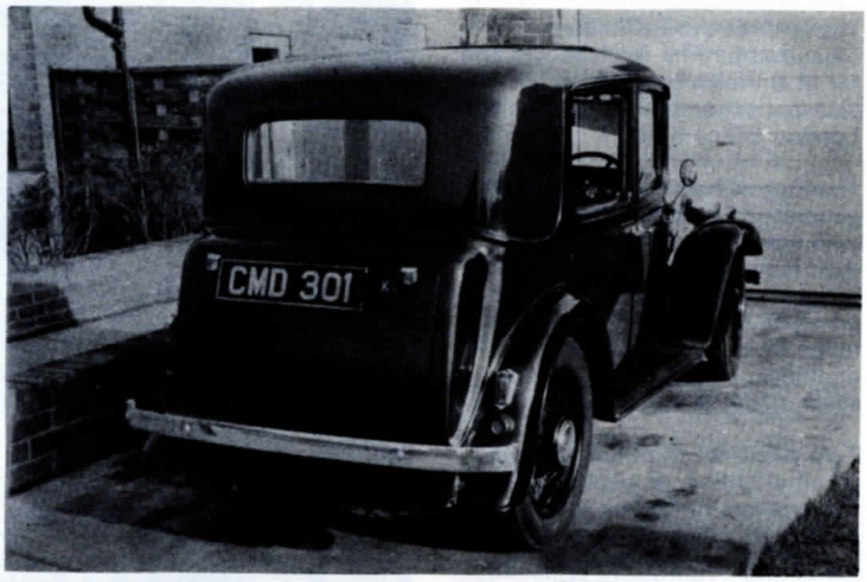
Interesting coins do turn up from time to time in perfect condition in places such as old deed boxes and bureaux, but if you discover a rare Victorian penny in mint condition put aside by great-grandmother, for heaven's sake do not try to clean it even if it is black with age. A touch of metal polish can reduce its market value by up to 75 per cent.

Of course your chances of finding an extremely rare modern coin are almost non-existent, but very occasionally it does happen. Some years ago an American collector came into possession of a 1954 penny. As none were minted that year, his coin was greeted in the world of numismatics with suspicion to say the least. However, the Royal Mint examined the coin and verified its authenticity. Even in a year when it is decided not to mint pennies, specimen coins are struck. In 1954 one of these seems to have accidentally got into a bag of coins for general circulation. The last thing heard about the penny was that it had a value of £12,000 on its head.

How many more will be joining the 'change checkers club' after reading this.

CULTS

The old car cult
by Brian Johnston
HWPEL (Thornaby)



Example of a mid-thirties Austin, recent property of the writer, with a current potential value of £250 plus, in mint condition

Interest in the ownership and driving of the older motor car is not new. Indeed devotees began to take an active interest in the mid-thirties, some five years or so after the Great Depression of 1930-31 which killed off 41 of the 92 manufacturers present at the Motor Show of 1929, including some of the greatest names. In the early thirties production methods changed with the swing to mass assembly techniques which, initially, led to swamping a waiting market with many disastrously bad cars, especially where engine development outstripped chassis design. It became apparent to the motoring enthusiast of the time that there was no point in buying a poorly made new design when older cars of the highest quality could be had for a fraction of the money. No one who has handled expensive well-made machinery will be content for long with cheap mass-produced units and so the Vintage movement caught on.

In purist terms, a Vintage Car is one built before the end of 1930, and Veteran and Edwardian classifications are also used to denote vehicles in use prior to 1905 and between then and the outset of World War 1, respectively.

For very many years it was possible to buy a high quality thoroughbred Vintage car for a modest sum and full restoration was a more matter of time than money. Before the advent of mass production a car was largely hand built, according to recognised workshop techniques and consequently maintenance was not difficult for the competent engineer.

Following World War II however ownership of a Vintage car became the vogue and by the mid-fifties, the availability of such cars was becoming limited. During the next ten years or so demand continued to develop and rapidly the much sought after pre 1930 vehicles appreciated considerably in excess of their practical value. This trend has continued unchecked with the result that the classic Vintage car is now generally out of reach of the would-be owner. Indeed, many such cars are bought and stabled simply to serve as 'gilt edged' investments by affluent, and relatively disinterested, owners.

Today, considerable interest is being shown in certain models, which although built after 1930, have nevertheless proved to be worthy of preservation. Such cars may be less difficult to obtain, in original condition, and spares are usually located without difficulty.

An auction sale recently held in the Teesside area with an entry of fourteen old cars attracted remarkably high bids, demonstrating that even now these less desirable cars are assuming a new range of values.

Typical of the bids realised were, £137 for a 1933 Morris Oxford, £177 for a 1934 Austin Nine, £95 for a Fraser Nash BMW made in 1939, whilst a 1929 Austin Seven reached £325 before being withdrawn.

It must be said that, with perhaps one exception, the cars were not specially prepared for the Sale, but were average condition vehicles, having rendered their various owners years of faithful service. It is becoming increasingly clear that within the next two or three years most surviving well maintained, pre-war cars will have appreciated to well above their original cost.

There is still scope for the adventurous minded individual to indulge in an economical form of pleasurable motoring where technical driving ability is not lost to Detroit devices and where annual depreciation is a non-existent factor.

F H Royce is credited with saying, on the introduction of the legendary Silver Ghost, 'The quality will remain long after the price is forgotten', but today, the reverse may be equally applicable in many cases.

Editor's Note:-
It would be interesting to know which HW employee owns the oldest car.

SPORTS & SOCIAL

Art exhibition

The HWPEL Art Exhibition, organised by Mrs B Meadows and Mr M S Walsh provided a pleasant extramural activity for the London Office Staff.

The idea of holding an exhibition generated a surprisingly large amount of interest and staff and their families were encouraged to bring as many different items as possible. Exhibits included a wide range of artwork, paintings, drawings, ceramics and even a scale model of a granite lighthouse.

Two surrealist paintings attracted much attention, as people tackled the problem of finding their meanings, while oil paintings of the traditional type appealed to the majority. A contrast in the pen and ink category was a selection of portraits cleverly executed with a date stamp.

The Exhibition proved to be a great success, not only for its high artistic value but in promoting kindred interests through a newly found medium.

Art exhibition

Table tennis section

Chairman
Mr G M Bell (HW Teesdale)
Secretary
Mr D A Harrison (HW Teesdale)

This season, 1968/9, we have three teams competing in the Stockton and District League and we are hoping to have more success than the past two years. Both the 'A' and 'B' teams are through into the 2nd round of the Colin Davison Cup and the 'C' team has an outside chance of promotion.

The inter-departmental Competition has been renovated this year and we have had an enthusiastic entry.

At the time of writing the semi-finals have been reached as follows:

HW Teesdale, Bridge Yard v.
HW Stockton " A "
HW Steel Foundries 'A' v.
HW Teesdale Commercial

It is hoped that this competition will become an annual event.

HW stampings football team

The Stampings team were last season's Sunday League winners, and have started off this season in good form, having played eight matches without losing a game. They are currently second in the League with a game in hand.

It has been suggested that the team go to Belgium for both a holiday and to play various Belgian teams as other members of the League did this last year. Raffles, etc. are being organised to assist with funds and any suggestions for raising money or contributions, would be gratefully received by by Mr W Shurmer, Purchasing Dept Seaton Carew.

Football section

Chairman
Mr J Dickinson (The Friarage)
Secretary
Mr R. Nicholson (HW Teesdale)

Last season was a particularly good one—the 1st team having won the Teesside Football league for the second year running—the 2nd team having won the South Bank League after being runners-up the previous season—and the Sunday League team having finished runners-up in both the Teesborough League table and the Challenge Cup—A successful year indeed presenting an even greater challenge for the present season.

The 1968 inter-departmental competition provided an 'all Teesdale' final between the Machine Shop and the Bridge Yard 'A' team. This needle match was won by HW Teesdale Machine Shop who were presented with trophies by Mr T H Stayman during a pleasant social evening in the club following the exciting game.

Panto-time

The Welfare Committee of Head Wrightson Employees' Council have arranged the Annual Treat for employees' children at the ABC Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees at the matinee performance on Monday 30 December 1968. As there are likely to be more people than can be accommodated on that day some of the guests will be attending on Tuesday 31 December.

This year's pantomime is ' Dick Whittington ' and the stars are Alec Munro with Dave Dee, Dosey, Mick and Titch.

Motor club

Chairman Mr S Waites
(HW Process Engineering Thornaby)
Secretary Mr W Kendrick
(Research & Development Division)
Competitions Secretary
Mr C Thompson (HW Stockton)

1968 was a poor year for rallies, however a successful treasure hunt and three very well attended film shows were held. More treasure hunts and map reading contests are 'on the boards' for the Spring but no dates have been fixed yet.

It is hoped to organise a trip to the Motor Show in October next year, anyone interested please contact Bill Kendrick.

1969 Fixtures

Wednesday January 29 Film Show HW Social Club
Wednesday February 26 Film Show HW Social Club
Wednesday March 26 Film Show HW Social Club
March (to be arranged) Spring Rally North Yorkshire Moors
October (to be arranged) Restricted Rally North Yorkshire Moors

Cricket

Chairman Mr D Fryer
(HW Teesdale)
Secretary Mr D Good
(HW Stockton)

During the summer the cricket sections had teams running in the 1st Division and Reserve Division of the Cleveland and Teesside League and one team in the Middlesbrough mid week league.

Pride of place in achievements went to the 1st team when, after trying for over 25 years, won the most coveted trophy in the league 'The Cleveland Cup'. The final was played at Stokesley between ourselves and Cargo Fleet. An enthralling final ended with HW battling on to win by 4 by 4 wickets in a low scoring game.

Another achievement was by the Reserve team when they won the Reserve Team 'Knock Out Cup' beating Smiths Dock in the final on Ashmores ground.

Our Cup prowess was not however maintained in the league table, for the 1st team were relegated to Division 2 after a close contest all season by no less than five clubs. The Reserve team finished midway in their league.

In an effort to prepare for the 1969 Season indoor net practice at the Stockton Sports Centre starts on January 13 from 7.00 pm–8.00 pm and continues weekly until early April.

People who are interested in playing for the Works team next season should contact Mr D Dryer, HW Teesdale Shipping Department Tel No 194.

Interdepartmental Cricket Competition

Once again this proved to be very successful with 18 teams entering although 2 dropped out without competing.

The final was contested between HW Stockton and HW Process Engineering (Thornaby), and won by HW Stockton for the second year running.

Both teams then gathered in the club for a drink and eats a feature which was enjoyed by all and we hope that this will be the pattern of future competitions.

1st Team Winners of the Cleveland Cup
Back Row left-right D Good, E Dunn, G Bell, S Whitmarsh, Mr Bradley K Haggerstone
Front Row left-right H Harris, M Pratt, D Fryer (Capt) A Fryer, B Brannan.

Tennis section

Chairman Mr E Slack
(HW Steel Foundries)
Secretary Mr R Close
(HW Teesdale)

Match results for both teams this year have been very disappointing and our pre-season hopes of success were not fulfilled.

None the less a brighter aspect has been that a number of our younger players have gained valuable experience through 'filling in' at the last moment and coming through with flying colours. Our belated thanks to to these players.

New members should not be put off by the fact that we play only league games. The league is played in the most friendly spirit, with only one ' needle ' match where the red headed gentleman of MCC brings out the diplomat in the worst of us.

Thanks to Eric Yarker for his sterling work with the ' B ' team and all the rest of the stalwarts.

SPORTS & SOCIAL

Bowls Club

Chairman W Maidens
(HW Machine)
Secretary D Branson
(HW Machine)

During the 1968 season the HW team won the Works League and reached the final of the Coronation Cup. In the Yorkshire Council Marshall Shield the HW team won the No. 3 District section, but lost in the quarter final against Searcroft York.

It is thought that by winning the Inter-Departmental Bowling Competitions (both full team and one rink) for the third successive year, the HW Machine Company has accomplished a feat never before achieved by any other department.

Several of the full team were comparative beginners to the ancient and honourable game, and great credit is due to them for their sustained efforts.

The full team consisted of:
D. Branson, W Maidens, W Walton, S Marshall, W Gartry, G Unthank, R Kelly, C Agar, G Gill, M Phillips, S Woolard, N Guillaume, J Harris, and F McCullough and the one rink comprised: W Maidens, S Marshall, W Walton, D Branson, and J Harris.

Rumour has it that one or two of the ' Originals ' such as D Branson and W Maidens have had to purchase extra display cabinets in order to show off their accumulation of ' pots '.

H W Social Club

General Secretary P Mitchell
(HW Stockton)
During the past year a small committee has attempted to put new life into the social club. The Motoring and First aid sections are regularly using the club-house facilities along with the Table Tennis section. Dancing has been introduced on Wednesday and Saturday nights, with special tuition for beginners. The Bingo on Friday and Sunday nights continues to provide 'festive fare' for HW Pensioners.

Marriages — Best Wishes

The Friarage

Mr J Cartwright to Miss E Blair (Accounts Dept)
Mr M Hogan to Miss K W Salmon (Insurance Dept)
Mr D Humphreys (Accounts Dept.) to Miss E Hodgson (Accounts Dept)
Mr D Littler to Miss B Train (Personnel Dept)
Mr A Simpson to Miss P Lamb (Accounts Dept)

Research & Development Division

Mr J Thompson to Miss M Caldwell

HW Process Engineering Thornaby

Mr K Thompson to Miss J M Baker
Mr H Wood (DO) to Miss J Heslop

HW Stampings

Mr J Jenkins (Planning) to Miss L Hockett
Mr J O'Donnell to Miss H Watson (Typist)
Mr R Rowling (DO) to Miss M L Appleyard
Mr M Stoddart (Purchasing) to Miss L Ketchen

HW Steel Foundries

Mr R Atkinson to Miss N Drummond (Office)
Mr T Welch to Miss B Head (Office)

HW Stockton

Mr J Barker (Steel Foundry) to Miss B Heavisides (Purchasing)
Mr K Frankland (Template Shop) to Miss P Caine
Mr D Kennedy (Fitting Shop) to Miss N Green
Mr P Trueman to Miss C Wilson (Secretary)
Mr A Woodhouse (DO) to Miss S Brown

HW Teesdale

Mr B Canney (DO) to Miss C Baker
Mr S Johnson (Erection Dept) to Miss E Clark
Mr A Oliver to Miss E Burleigh (Contracts Dept)
Mr A Pallister (DO) to Miss P M J Smith
Mr D Scott to Miss S James (Production Eng)
Mr G C Swain (DO) to Miss U Warriner (Filing)
Mr R J Walker to Miss S Littlefair (Telephonist)

Mr and Mrs D Humphreys

Mr and Mrs G C Swain

Mr and Mrs Wood

Mr and Mrs J Jenkins

Mr and Mrs K Thompson

Mr and Mrs R Rowling

Mr and Mrs A Simpson