

# WRIGHT AHEAD

THE HEAD-WRIGHTSON NEWS LETTER

Vol. 2

DECEMBER, 1950

No. 3.



By courtesy of Yorkshire Evening Press.

A TIGHT SQUEEZE — H.W. PRESSURE VESSEL UNDER BRIDGE IN YORK.

## VICE-CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

First of all I would like to wish a very Happy Christmas to all readers of "Wright Ahead".

1950 has been a year of progress for the firm; what lies ahead for 1951? The good work that we have done this year will undoubtedly lay the pattern for what we can do in 1951 and, therefore let us look at one or two of the outstanding events of the past twelve months.

The first that springs to mind is our development of the examination of steel castings by gamma-ray. Head Wrightson was the first firm to take advantage of the new isotopes of cobalt and tantalum (which are being produced from the atomic pile at Harwell) in their application to the steel foundry industry. In this we lead the British Empire. Our experience in the non-destructive testing of steel castings should enable us further to improve the quality of our products and ensure a steady flow of orders during 1951 and the ensuing years.

The continued success of our Apprentice Training scheme, is I think, the next important event. Started immediately after the end of the war, our apprentice training scheme is organised in a slightly different way to that adopted by other firms. Our apprentices on entering the Apprentice School do not choose to which trade they will belong, instead, they are given a year's intensive training in all departments of our Works and at the end of the year sit a competitive examination, the result of which, allied to the student's choice, decides which trade they will enter. During 1950 we began to see the benefits of this scheme as the first pupils finished their apprenticeship. It is interesting to know that the British Admiralty, have adopted an exactly similar form of training for artificers entering

the Royal Navy—and with the same good results as we have experienced.

It has been a great year for British exports, particularly of engineering products and our own shipments have emphasised this. Contracts in all parts of the world have been delivered during the past twelve months, including those to the North American Continent where they earn valuable hard currency. We may feel pride that H.W. is doing its full share in closing the dollar gap.

At both Teesdale and the Forge the year has shown an improvement in the technique of welding, not only of mild steels, but of the particularly difficult austenitic stainless steels. During this year Wright-Boag Head Wrightson in South Africa started a new speciality in making welded bulldozers and angledozers for the Caterpillar Company.

During the past few months our Chairman, Mr. Richard Miles has undertaken a world tour, visiting prospective markets in Italy, Australia, and the United States. We welcome his return, knowing that his trip will have extended further our prestige throughout the world.

We can therefore look back on the year's achievements as the basis for a confident view of the future, knowing that the hard work we have done will lead to prosperity in the years that lie ahead.

John Wrightson

**BIRTHS**

Congratulations to :—  
 Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Bennett, (Steel Foundry), a son.  
 Another Moulder?  
 Mr. & Mrs. C. Hughes, (Forge B.Y.), a son.  
 Mr. & Mrs T. Smitn, (Smitns' Shop), a daughter.  
 Mr. Ian (Bob) Evans, H. W. Co. D.O., twin daughters.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Spencer, (Steel Foundry), a daughter.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wright, (H.Q.), a daughter.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Rochford, (Die Shop, Teesdale), a son.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paddy Walsh, (Teesdale Steel Foundry),  
 a son.

**MARRIAGES**

Best Wishes to :—  
 Miss Margaret Robson, (Personnel Dept.), to Rev. James  
 Cargill.  
 Mr. C. Hughes, (Forge B.Y.), to Miss Irene Allison.  
 Mr. G. Wilson to Miss E. Aithwaite, both of Teesdale  
 Bridge Yard.  
 Mr. J. Jeffels, (Teesdale B. Y.), to Miss E. Close.  
 Mr. Raymond McDonald, (Laboratory), to Miss Jean  
 Campbell.  
 Miss Marjorie Ainsworth, (H. W. M. Co. Contracts),  
 to Mr. Alan Lowry.  
 Mr. Thomas Hudson, (H. W. M. Co. Fitters), to Miss  
 W. M. Tash.  
 Mr. David W. Clarke, (H. W.M. Co. Dev. Off.), to Miss  
 Rita Campbell.  
 Miss Dorothy Foxton, (H. W. M. Co. Stores Dept.), to  
 Mr. J. Gordon Wood.  
 Mr. Jack Catron, (Teesdale Patt. Shop), to Miss Olwyn  
 Bean.  
 Miss Sheila Hardy, (H.Q.), to Mr C. Thompson of the  
 General D.O.  
 Miss Terry Power, (H.Q.), to Mr. S. Wilkinson.  
 Miss Norma Ellis, (Eng. Div.), to Mr. Pelmear, Main-  
 tenance Dept.

Mr. RAYMOND MACDONALD (Labs.) & Miss JEAN CAMPBELL

**ENGAGEMENTS**

Mr. Harry Allison, (H.W.M. Co. D.O.), to Miss Joyce  
 Etherington.  
 Mr. Earl Lilley, (H.W.M. Co. D.O.), to Miss Mary  
 Mather.  
 Mr. W. Mawby, (Teesdale B/Yd), to Miss E. Robson.

**SILVER WEDDINGS**

Congratulations on their 25th Wedding Anniversary  
 to Mr. J. Tunney, Mr. A. Raine and Mr. S. Jackson,  
 all of the Forgings Division.

**DEATHS**

Condolences to :—  
 The widow and family of Mr. Jack Barber, (Forge  
 B.Y.)  
 Mr. J. E. Mercer on the loss of his eldest brother.  
 The widow of Mr. T. Cummings, (Steel Foundry).  
 The widow and family of Les. Wesson, (Steel Fdry Shop).  
 The family of Mr. J. Fail, Egglecliffe. Mr. Fail worked  
 for the company for fifty years.  
 The family of Mr. J. Homer, (Stockton Steel).  
 The widow and family of Mr. J. Smith, (Iron Foundry).  
 The widow and family of Mr. G. Cook, (Stockton Steel  
 Foundry).

**SICK LIST**

We hope for the speedy recovery of :—  
 Mr. W. Collier, H. W. M. Co. Inspection).  
 Mr. R. Clay, (H. W. M. Co. Drillers).  
 Mr. R. Smith. (H. W. M. Co. Planning Dept.).  
 Mr. J. W. Hart, (Smiths' Shop).  
 Mr. A. Jolly, (Seaton).  
 Mr. George Stephenson, (Forgings Division).  
 Mr. Don Atkinson of the Steel Foundry Division.

**PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS**

Mr. J. Gill of Stockton Forge left the Company's  
 service.  
 Mr. Maynard Wilson, (L.A. Shop), left the Company's  
 service.  
 Mr. J. Hood, (Pattern Shop), to Steel Foundry.  
 Mr. Williamson, (Forgings Division), left the Company's  
 service.  
 Mr. R. B. W. Bolland to be Commercial Manager of  
 H. W. Aluminium.  
 Mr. Selby T. Robson of H. W. Processes Ltd., has been  
 appointed a Director of the Parent Company.  
 Mr. K. Kemp of Stockton Forge to be Senior Foreman,  
 H. W. Aluminium.  
 Mr. R. Husband to be Junior Foreman, H. W.  
 Aluminium.

**ANNUAL STAFF DANCE**

This will be held on  
 FRIDAY, 29th DECEMBER, 1950.  
 in the  
 PALAIS DE DANSE  
 STOCKTON-ON-TEES.  
**Be Sure & Get Your Ticket.**

Mr. Maynard Wilson who has left the firm to take  
 up another post in the South of England would like to  
 be remembered to all his friends. He says he did his  
 best to get round and see everybody but may not have  
 managed it.

We are sure that all our readers will join us in wish-  
 ing Mr. Wilson the very best of luck in his new job.



STEEL FOUNDRY TEESDALE WIN INTERDEPARTMENTAL CUP FOR SECOND TIME.

### FIRST ANNUAL SWIMMING GALA AT STOCKTON BATHS.

The above event took place in the Corporation Baths on Tuesday, 24th October, 1950. A grand quality of swimming was shown in all events.

The Interdepartmental Relay Race brought so many entries that three heats had to be held. The first heat was won by the Forge Bridge Yard "A" the second heat by Teesdale Bridge Yard "B" and the third heat by McKee Division "A". In the final Forge Bridge Yard "A" were the winners with McKee as runners-up.

The individual races finished as follows :—

#### Events for Employees' Children.

Junior Boys.— 1st M. Harper, 2nd R. Snowden, 3rd D. Birch.

Junior Girls.— 1st Ann Prest, 2nd Brenda Warren, 3rd Ann Lacy.

Veterans' Free Style.— 1st C. Woodhouse (Teesdale Steel F'dry), 2nd R. Thompson (Forge D. O.), 3rd J. Green (Forge B.Y.).

Gents' Free Style (35 entries).— 1st C. Marrison (Forge Office), 2nd S. Green (App. School), 3rd C. Bell (App. School).

Gents' Back Stroke (17 entries).— 1st C. Marrison (Forge Office), 2nd J. Brown (Forge B.Y.), 3rd C. Bell (App. School).

Gents' Breast Stroke (20 entries).— 1st T. Nichol (Forge B.Y.), 2nd N. Kielgaard (McKee Division), 3rd C. Bell (App. School).

Gents' Diving for Objects.— 1st A. Harburn (Teesdale B.Y.), 2nd J. Poole (Teesdale Machine Shop).

In the plain diving competition there were 20 entrants and after some splendid diving the judges gave a tie between P. Partridge (Maintenance) and T. Nichol (Forge B.Y.) each with 24 points. After a deciding dive P. Partridge was declared the winner. In this event the Athletic Committee Chairman (Mr. H. Ayre) who is also swimming Secretary, finished third with 22 points and won a private feud against A. Jessop (Steel Foundry Dressers) who had 20 points.

These internal events were followed by a 2 lengths Invitation Free Style Handicap open to members of the Stockton A.S.C. This was won by G. McGregor and finally a water polo match was played by 2 teams

selected by the Stockton Club.

The presentation of prizes was made after each event by Mr John Waller (Chief Buyer).

The Athletic Committee which made all arrangements, wishes to express its appreciation to the members of the Stockton A.S.C. for their assistance in running the Gala at the Baths' side and, in particular, to Messrs. R. N. Alderson (M.C.), Geo. Young (Starter), L. Gough (Polo Referee) and the judges.

Mr. Hawksby, the Baths Superintendent, made an appeal on behalf of the Northumberland & Durham Swimming Association for funds for the national Coaching Scheme for the 1951 Olympic Games, which realised a sum of over £3. This was acclaimed as a generous response for such a function.

The Committee have to thank all swimmers, in particular, the Veterans for their efforts and co-operation in making this, our first gala, such a success and hope that this has been the fore-runner of many other such social functions.

### FOOTBALL

We are looking forward to a most successful season. We have two teams and are well fixed for good reserves.

The Tees-side League team has won 10 out of a possible 11 matches and are, at present, in the 3rd qualifying round of the F.A. Amateur Cup, Semi-final of the League Challenge Cup and are looking forward to a trip to Wembley.

The South Bank League team is at present at the top of the League and hopes to win both the League and the Challenge Cup.

We should like more support from our own work-mates. There is still plenty of room on the terraces and a few season tickets remain.

### SWIMMING SECTION FOR H.W. ?

At their last meeting the Social & Athletic Committee of the Employees' Council agreed to consider a proposal to have a Club night for swimming for their members.

This, of course, will depend on whether or not they are able to obtain the use of the Baths. More news of this project will be given in later issues.

## HEAD WRIGHTSON MAKE CENTRE PAGE OF "DAILY NEWS"

Published in Abadan

One of the World's lightest Buildings for AIOC  
AGHA JARI'S ALUMINIUM ALLOY PROJECT.

At Ummidieh, the southern district stores area near Agha Jari, there is at present being built one of the largest aluminium alloy buildings in the world.

It is being erected for the AIOC by the Head-Wrightson Company, who have world-wide experience in construction work and are among the foremost firms to-day specialising in aluminium alloy construction in its application to bridge, buildings, barges and other civil engineering operations where previously steel has been used.

The building when completed will be 300 feet long, 150 feet wide and nearly 40 feet high. It is being built in three spans of 50 feet. Along the whole length of each span there will run a five-ton Morris crane. This will give some idea of the strength of this relatively new building material.



### Amusing Trick

The Head-Wrightson chief representative in Iran supervising construction is Mr. R. S. Hawkins and he has an amusing trick which staggers visitors to Ummidieh.

They are not at first aware that the material used is an aluminium alloy and when they see him casually pick up an enormous girder they refuse to believe their eyes—until they themselves have performed this apparent strong man act.

Development of aluminium alloy fabrications has been made possible by rapid advancement of extruded sections as opposed to rolled or cast sections. The alloy is approximately four times lighter than the steel used in construction work of a similar nature and, although the metal taken by itself is not as strong as steel, by bracing, the whole building can be brought up to the standard specification for one of steel.

That transportation difficulties are largely overcome will be realised from the fact that one three-ton truck, which normally carries two steel stanchions can carry six exactly similar alloy stanchions and even then it

is bulk that is the limiting factor. In erection, costs are cut to a minimum since no heavy equipment is needed at all and all the work can be done with simple block and tackle.

### No Damage

The hurricane-force wind which hit Agha Jari some months ago will be remembered but, although the building was only partly constructed, there was no damage done to it at all.

As for the future, Mr. Hawkins is enthusiastic. He foresees alloy derricks, prefabricated bungalows, shipping containers, barges, bridges—even alloy pipe lines are not beyond the bounds of possibility, since the corrosion problems have been mainly overcome by the use of copper-free alloys and various new anti-corrosive treatments".

### NOTICE

**This does not refer to the H. W. Organisation.**

It has come to the attention of the Management that employees have been dying on the job, and either refusing or neglecting to fall over. This practise must cease. Any employee found dead on the job in an upright position will be immediately dropped from the pay roll.

In future if a Foreman notices any employee has made no movement for a period of two hours, it will be his duty to investigate, as it is almost impossible to distinguish between death and the natural movement of some employees.

Foremen are cautioned to make careful investigation, holding a pay packet in front of the suspected person is considered the authentic test, but there have been cases where the natural instinct has been so deeply embedded that the hand of the employee has made a spasmodic clutch, even after rigor mortis has set in.

### The Bucket—but no Spade!—at Thirsk

The Bucket came into Thirsk Market Place just before lunch-time on Wednesday. It was no ordinary bucket. It stood 20 feet above the cobble-stones, tethered by steel hawsers to a low loader. Not only was it pulled along by a tower, powered with a huge Diesel engine, it required a similar vehicle to push at the back. The Bucket was painted red and marked "Capacity 200 tons." It was obviously designed to perform some useful function in connection with iron and steel production. In Thirsk it was immediately the centre of an admiring crowd, eagerly explaining to each other just what the Bucket was for, how its transport worked and how its progress along busy roads was arranged. Speculation about whether the two drivers had any means of communication by telephone were rife.

The police escort car drove off ahead and, swaying ponderously, the Bucket moved weightily off towards Castlegate. Obviously its huge bulk would necessarily create some congestion on the roads and cause some drivers to lose time because they could not get round the gargantuan load. But perhaps the driver anxiously waiting his opportunity to overtake, would be consoled by the huge board suspended from the Bucket. It bore the disarming legend "Head, Wrightson and Co., apologise for any inconvenience this may cause."

Robert William Wright who is employed in the Stockton Forge D.O. and who is an ex-member of our Apprentice School, has been awarded the Institute of Marine Engineers' Prize for achieving the best work on "Heat Engines" at Constantine Technical College during the 1949/50 Session.

## DIVISIONAL NEWS

### ENGINEERING DIVISION

#### Machine Shop.

In common with other departments we are working to full capacity. The Iron and Steel Industry is still our main customer. The Rolling Platform for the Admiralty has been despatched from the shops.

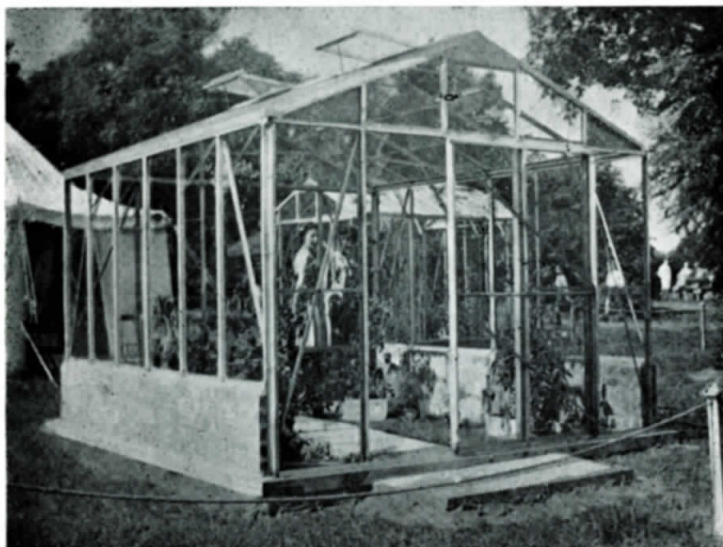
The Heat Exchange Shop is also very busy. We are glad to see this as this Department both earns and saves dollars. A visitor to this shop cannot fail to see the happy spirit which prevails among Mr. Jack Wellum and his men. Some of the inmates of the shop are, to put it mildly, a little queer. One fitter, believe it or not, has been working in a pair of his wife's nylons and a driller still insists on trumping in when anyone goes mazaire. Yes, Jack Wellum gets all our sympathy.

We extend our best wishes for the future to Eric Morris (Tool Room Fitter) who has just left us after working with the firm for 15 years in fact from the time he left school. Like many more of our employees he is a victim of the housing shortage. He is going to live in Wales where he says he will be much better off but he was sorry to leave. No Jack Martin or Beth Dermont to whisper inspired information in his ear.

Freddie Goodman and Billie Wind have returned from Manor House Hospital and we hope they are much better.

We wish a speedy recovery to Joe Umpleby who has been absent five months, G. Darbyshire who has been away four months and G. Thompson who is in Manor House Hospital.

Congratulations to J. (Curly) Thirwell on his marriage.



"THE AMATEUR GLASSHOUSE"  
H.W. Exhibit at Stockton Show.

#### Alloy Shop Briefs.

The shop was very pleased to have on exhibition at the Stockton Show one of our products, the "Amateur" glasshouse. This created quite an impression and an estimated number of about 200 people passed through the stand during the day. We are also pleased to be able to report that we are now settling down to steady production after the turmoil of the now historic change-over.

We should like to offer our sincere best wishes to Doris Foxton who has left us to join the matrimonial ranks.

Congratulations also to Thelma Helm, Joan Purcifer, who have become engaged; competition here also from the men, Roy Husband, our popular chargehand having made his choice.

Charlie Noble who had a cycle accident a short time ago, is now back at work. He suffered a slight fracture of the cranium but this was recently very well salved with a substantial sum which he won on Vernons' pool.

## STEEL FOUNDRIES DIVISION

#### Teesdale.

Congratulations to Mr. T. C. Percival on his recent success at Constantine Technical College, when he obtained his Diploma in Foundry Technology.

It is with regret that we have to report that Mr. Jack Swales is still on the sick list and will probably have to give up Foundry work because of his health. Jack has been a conscientious servant of the company and many apprentices have passed through his hands. He will be missed by all. Here's hoping for an improvement in his health.

T. Trotter is still unable to work through his long illness and has had to find a better climate. We hope for his speedy recovery and that he will soon be amongst us again.

A Smoker was held in the Victoria Hotel to celebrate the winning of the Interdepartmental Football Cup.

This was an enjoyable and well patronised function. Mr. L. W. Fedden was in the Chair and was supported by Mr. J. E. Mercer (Foundry Manager), Mr. Frank Harris, and Mr. H. Lamb. Mr. Don Atkinson was unfortunately unable to be present for business reasons.

Mr. Mercer presented each player with a miniature cup and congratulated the team on its splendid display in winning the Cup for the second year in succession.

A musical entertainment followed, provided by the Watsonian Concert Party, Ray Collier, Irene Peacock, Bobbie Winter at the piano, and compered by our old friend the one and only Albert West.

The whole affair was voted a great success and hopes were expressed that a similar function would be held next year.

## FORGINGS DIVISION.

### TRUE

J. Lumley actually seen charging furnace up at 7-20 a.m. Two truck drivers who vie with each other to emulate the deeds (and speeds) of Ben Hur.

### NOT TRUE

That the inspectors are so strict they won't even pass the salt.

### STILL NOT TRUE

That S. Dack and J. Ainsley have said "You can't break eggs with a stick unless you have a good week on "Yokes."

We appreciate the showers etc. provided for the Teesdale Smith Shop personnel and hope that everyone will co-operate in keeping them clean and tidy.

After many anxious hours in the Shower, Peter still cannot lose his sun-tan.

Congratulation to Bruce Crawford (Smiths' Shop) on his latest win against Sam Wilde, the Nigerian. We hope his successes may continue when he returns from Manor House Hospital.

### DON'S DIET.

Two 'oversize' Lamb 'Chopes',  
One 'Scant' Pint of Beer,  
Made from the very best 'Hopes'  
Constitute a meal, so he declares,  
That is the very 'Topes'

\* \* \*

## STOCKTON FORGE

What is the meaning of chalk marks over the Humble Hook Lathe denoting numbers reducable from 65 and now down to 12. Is it something to do with another D day?

The Forge Male Voice Choir welcomed a newcomer recently, oddly enough a young lady, who has volunteered to be the accompanist. She is Miss Josie Dalioli of the Forge D.O. Staff, and it will be interesting to see whether the choir is further strengthened by a contingent of young bloods?

Taking leave of one's acquaintances is never a happy

experience, and the longer the duration of the acquaintance, it is with greater feeling that we say "So-long". Since our last issue of the "Wright Ahead", we of Stockton Forge have lost the services of one who had grown up in the Division and attained the position of Works Manager. We sincerely hope that he finds his new post a congenial one, and we feel if a copy of this current issue should fall into his hands, that he will understand and appreciate, with his accustomed humour, when we say that in spite of our casual differences and our failure to see eye to eye, we as workmen believe it is better to "deal with the de'il you know than with one you don't".

#### Humble Detaching Hooks.

True to our tradition of constantly striving to improve the efficiency of our products, we have recently been amending the design of our well-known Stephen Humble detaching hooks. While still retaining the same basic principles of operation, we have been able to increase appreciably the strength of these, size for size. This has been achieved more by common-sense reasoning than anything else, and first destructive tests have been fully satisfactory, and have confirmed the correctness of our theoretical computations.

We thus hope to keep well abreast—no, we should say well ahead—of our competitors, and we want the terms "Humble Hooks" and "Head Wrightson" to be even more closely linked together in the minds of mining engineers both at home and abroad.

#### Garden Produce and Handicraft Show.

Mr. David Coupland (Stockton Forge B.Y. Apprentice), kindly loaned for show some of his paintings and sketches. These were highly appreciated.

#### Holidays.

Four young fellows from the Forge, went to the Norfolk Broads yachting. One 'goop' let the boom knock him into the water. Rather than lose his trousers (complete with hip pocket) he almost went down for the last time, while the rest wondered whether to throw him the life-belt or keep it for themselves. I'm thinking they had better stick to Redcar after this, with a bucket and spade each.

#### Fish.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Greg Tye on their new arrivals. We get "Guppies" from morning till night—why doesn't somebody drown 'em?

#### Bowls.

Forge Bridge Yard beat Teesdale Bridge Yard (despite help from Light Alloy Shop) winning the Wilfred Wrightson Challenge Cup. A. Todd is delighted as the Forge have fought for 20 years and this is the first success.

### H. W. MACHINE COMPANY.

On September 21st the Minister of Supply, Mr. G. R. Strauss, opened a new plant valued at £3½ million, which has been installed by the Northern Aluminium Company Limited at their Works at Rogerstone, near Newport, Mon.

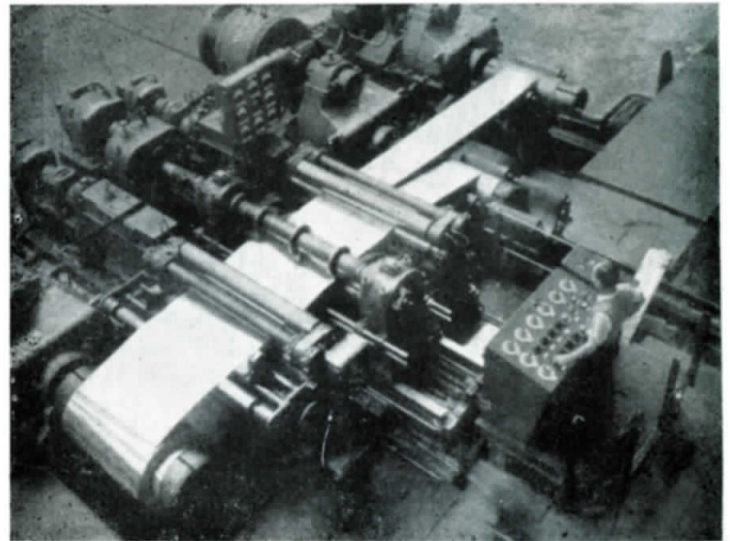
Included in the plant, which was seen by a large number of distinguished visitors, was a considerable amount of equipment supplied by H. W. Machine Company and which was valued at about £350,000.

At the official opening ceremony we were represented by Mr. Peter Wrightson, who flew down specially for the occasion, and Mr. F. A. Batty who had been responsible for the engineering on this plant.

Although a great deal of the equipment had only recently been installed, everything worked extremely well and we understand that all the visitors were most impressed with our contribution to this new plant.

Incidentally, the girders of the overhead cranes in this plant were fabricated in light alloys by H. W. Aluminium Limited.

One of the most interesting lines of equipment is



designed to take coils of aluminium strip 36" wide and weighing 5 tons and to uncoil these and feed the strip through a rotary trimmer, followed by a flying shear and an automatic sheet classifying machine. Just ahead of the flying shear is a flying micrometer, through which the material passes. If the gauge varies only slightly from the specified thickness a deflector is raised which causes the off-gauge material to be deposited upon a "reject" piler. Material which is of the correct thickness is deflected on to one of two "prime" pilers on which a stack of sheets weighing up to 5 tons is accumulated before being discharged on to a conveyor system.

This machine is almost uncanny in its operation, as in addition to sorting out the sheets at a speed of 600 ft. per minute, it also counts the sheets into groups of 112 and scans the surface for imperfections.

Incorporated in this unit are a number of patented features developed by H. W. Machine Co.

Best wishes on his retirement to Mr. Herbert Masterman, the D. O. Registrar, and a welcome to Mr. Tom Smith who returns to Purchasing Dept. having completed his spell of National Service. To compensate for this, we say "So long" to Maurice Gibson, Apprentice Fitter, who has volunteered for "Square Bashing" with the R.A.F.

The Annual Staff Football Match between the Bachelors and the Benedicts took place on Wednesday evening, 13th September when the "Ancients" again lost (by the odd goal in five this time) in spite of surreptitious assistance from the Ref.

This entitles the latter (not the Ref.) to the Nuptial Trophy (a handsome Pot presented by the "Chamber of Sport") for another year.

There have also been keenly contested Bowls Matches between the Offices and the Shops on the excellent green at Pallister Park, kindly placed at our disposal by Mr. C. Hildvard. The Shops won the first two but the Offices pulled their socks up and Frank Skidmore won the long game for them with his last wood. These games have done a world of good in the social sense and we look forward to their continuation.

#### Piscatorial Note.

Several disciples of Isaak Walton desire to form an Angling Club for the whole combine. Will all who are interested communicate with Mr. Bob Bell, Middlesbrough Toolsmiths? A tendency to exaggerate is no disqualification.

From "H. C."

There once was a welder named "Bob"

Who kept apart from the "mob"

When asked to "look slippy"

To keep himself nippy

He bought roller-skates for the job.

**McKEE IRON & STEEL DIVISION.**

As so many other departments of our Company are involved in work connected with the Division's contract for a complete blast furnace plant for Messrs. John Summers & Sons Ltd., it is felt that some notes on the plant might be of general interest. The plant will occupy an area nearly  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile long by a little less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile in width and will be situated on land which has been reclaimed from the estuary of the River Dee by depositing a layer of sand 12 feet thick over the entire area. Bore holes sunk to a depth of 180' showed sand all the way and the depth of this sand bed has not been finally determined. To meet the problems presented by these conditions we engaged, in our opinion, the finest soil consultant in the world and have satisfied ourselves that our proposals are sound. The complete installation on this site will comprise power station, coke ovens, ore preparation, sintering and blast furnace plants. Ultimately it will produce 14,000 tons of iron per week, but the initial plant to be installed is designed to produce just half this figure. To obtain this initial production 17,000 tons of ore will have to be brought from Birkenhead Docks, 6,000 tons of coke will have to be manufactured on site, 27,000 tons of air will have to be blown into the blast furnace, about 1,000 million cubic feet of blast furnace gas will be made and 4,000 tons of slag disposed of, all quantities for one week.

In order to handle these vast quantities of materials a complete system of roads, railways, special rolling stock, conveyors and piping for air, gas, and water are required in addition to a power station, using blast furnace gas as its main fuel, supplying the electrical network.

The blast furnace itself will be largest in the country, having a 27' diameter hearth. Foundations are a problem in themselves requiring enormous amounts of cement and aggregate and careful design owing to the nature of the subsoil and the heavy loads to be carried.

A great deal of work has already been done on the site and it will not be long before the "iron fighters" of the Erection Department will have the steelwork under construction.

All in all this is a vast undertaking calling on the resources of practically every department of Teesdale and Stockton Forge Works.

There have been two recent weddings, both of members of the commercial office. During July, Marjorie Swales was married to Herbert Robson of the Forgings Department, and in September, Don Bradley married a sweet little lassie from Allendale. The Division wishes to take this opportunity of wishing every happiness to these two couples.

**VISIT TO AMERICA**

of Mr Martin Trowbridge, (H. W. Processes).

Even a Christmas Eve spent killing time in Southampton whilst awaiting my boat, which had been held up by fog, could not dampen the pleasant anticipation of spending three months at the Fluor Corporation's plant at Los Angeles, California. Of the voyage over there is little to say except that a Christmas spent at sea on a Dutch liner must certainly be amongst the seven Gastronomic Wonders of the World. Fortunately, I am not prone to seasickness and so was able to avail myself in full of the culinary extravaganzas which were provided.

One would have to be very blasé not to be thrilled by arriving at New York at evening time. At first the distant lights crystallising, as one enters the Hudson River, into a recognisable waterfront scene. And then as one draws near to the "Million Dollar Skyline", so aptly named, and passes the Statue of Liberty, the Hudson River Ferries become a familiar item on the scene. Fussy hooting little fellows, bustling importantly across between the islands at an unbelievable speed and looking for all the world like floating palaces of scintillating lights.

After the tranquility of a long sea voyage, to land is always strange, but to be hurled suddenly into the

mad rush and hurly-burly of New York is particularly terrifying. The gorge-like streets lined with the walls of skyscrapers probing upwards, combine with the solid packed mass of hooting yellow and black taxis to cause complete intimidation. Then, of course, there are the mysteries of a new coinage to deal with and the horrifying price of everything when converted into pounds sterling.

To a visiting Englishman, American meals of course, present the strangest contrasts from the kinds that one is used to. Buckwheat cakes with eggs and bacon and maple syrup poured over the lot is not perhaps the English idea of what a breakfast should be. However, I soon got used to eating fruit salad with meat and dealing with the monstrous steaks which seemed to appear at every meal. My stay in New York was regrettably short, but what I saw of it in the good hands of Fluor's New York representatives was enough to give me an appetite for more.

So, in what seemed a very short time, I was boarding a "Flyer" at the New York Central Station on the first leg of my journey to Los Angeles. En route I did see a little of Chicago—The Windy City—and after the mild weather that I had been having in New York I certainly thought that it lived up to this name.

The trans-continental trains in the States are extremely comfortable with air conditioning throughout. The only drawback is that if one likes fresh air, as I do, one is in difficulties, as it is impossible to open any of the windows. The locos themselves are generally the huge diesel stream-liners so familiar to cinemagoers, whilst at the other end of the train there is the observation coach, the diner and the club car, all very sumptuously appointed. The trains travel at such a high speed that a very unpleasant rocking motion is always present.

Travelling on these trans-continental trains is an education in itself and a splendid way of getting a cross section of American opinion. In America, of course, people talk to strangers much more than is common in England and this is especially so if one is a foreigner. I found myself bombarded with questions from all sides; about politics, religion, life in England and almost every other subject you can imagine. Believe me, some of these questions were very difficult to answer.

Los Angeles is as different in every way from New York and the eastern States as they are from Europe. The scenery, the architecture, and way of living, I found to be quite different from anything in my previous experience. California, of course, is a land of great contrast; on the coast one finds rich land covered with groves of Avocados and orange trees, whilst inland is the arid desert and the snow covered mountains. The features which impressed me most I suppose were the Spanish-American styles of architecture, the movie studios, the rodeos complete with bucking broncos and the overwhelming friendliness and hospitality of everyone I met.

Most of my time was spent at Fluor's home plant in Los Angeles where apart from gaining much knowledge about the various Fluor products which we are now marketing in Europe, I had the opportunity of meeting and getting to know many of Fluor's personnel who, to me, had previously been only signatures at the bottom of a letter. I also saw quite a section of the industry in the West as Fluor's products are widely scattered at a great range of different types of plant; chemical, petroleum, natural gas, fruit canning, power and so on.

With so much new to see, the time went very quickly and I soon found myself on the "Chief" express again bound for New York. After a brief time in that City during which I met Jim DeFlon who had spent several months with us at the London Office developing Cooling Tower sales and who is now one of Fluor's New York representatives, I was on the 'plane heading back for England. Naturally, I was glad to be back, but I must agree with those who say that once you visit the U.S.A. you always yearn to go back to it.



### H.W. PERSONALITIES—No. 8

#### MR. JOHN B. BASHFORD, IRON FOUNDRY.

Among the many men who have been in the forefront for a number of years in welfare matters in our organisation is Mr. John B. Bashford.

He started with the Company in 1904 as an Apprentice Moulder and has served under no less than six foremen in our Iron Foundries, at Teesdale and Eggescliffe. As a wielder of the trowel, he has seen many changes and is at present working on cast iron ingot moulds.

He remembers the lean days and speaks very warmly of the consideration shown by the late Sir Guy and the late Mr. Gore to employees in the foundry and very often reminds his colleagues of episodes which many would forget.

Mr. Bashford was a founder member, and represented his Department for twenty-nine years on the Welfare Committee. He has always been a willing helper in good works for his fellow men and as a member of the Welfare Sub-Committee of the Head Wrightson Employees' Council is much valued for his sound and sober judgement.

He recalls the commencement of the Works Thrift Club and the financial support given to it by the Company. Through this effort many of our men have been led to systematic saving resulting in our present scheme of banking accounts with the York Trustees Savings Bank.

Mr. Bashford is also a popular figure in the Town of Thornaby and for many years has been a member of the Parochial Church Council of St. Paul's. He has also been a chorister there for longer than he cares to remember and can be seen each Sunday transformed from "a foundry sand rat" in his chorister's robes attending to the spiritual welfare of the Town.

#### THE LATE MR. OSWALD GREENWELL.

A Ceremony held on Saturday, 25th November, 1950, at which men from the Iron Foundries gathered together to pay tribute to their late Chief, was described as unique in the history of the Company by Mr. F. Shepherd, Personnel Manager, speaking from the Chair.

The employees had, on their own initiative, decided to have Mr. Greenwell's portrait hung in Eggescliffe Foundry Canteen to perpetuate the memory of one who had always held their highest affection and esteem.

Mr. John Chambers, representing Eggescliffe Foundry, described Mr. Greenwell as being a true friend to all who worked with him: the men, said Mr. Chambers, never went to Mr. Greenwell for help or advice in vain. Trade Union Delegates who had to approach Mr. Greenwell never left without a fair hearing. He gave instances of Mr. Greenwell's consideration for his men, such as the procuring of a cigarette ration, tea ration, and hot meals for those working at Eggescliffe during the war years when there was no canteen.

Mr. Greenwell was one in a thousand, continued Mr. Chambers, and it was a tragedy that, after having struggled so long and so hard, he had to leave them just when the new foundries and amenities were coming into being at Eggescliffe.

Mr. Chambers concluded with a promise that the loyalty and co-operation which they had given to Mr. Greenwell would also be given to those who succeeded him.

Mr. W. Murgatroyd, speaking as a representative of Teesdale Iron Foundries, said that he could add little to the words of Mr. Chambers, but wholeheartedly endorsed them.

He did say, however, that he would have also liked to have seen the portraits of Sir Guy Wrightson and Mr. G. E. Gore hung alongside Mr. Greenwell's portrait. The men in the Foundries were deeply conscious of the fact that it was to this team of three that they owed so much, as, by their efforts and understanding the Foundries had been kept going during the years of depression.

Mr. Shepherd then introduced Mr. F. Fallowfield as being the unanimous selection of the men as the one most fitting to unveil Mr. Greenwell's portrait. Mr. Fallowfield referred to his 28 years' association with Mr. Greenwell, who had the gift of getting the best out of his workpeople and, at the same time, giving them a real sense of pleasure in the giving of their best.

Mr. Fallowfield concluded by saying that the words of advice given so often by Mr. Greenwell "Hard work and fair play" were truly symbolic.

Guests of the employees were:— Mrs. Greenwell, Mr. & Mrs. Greenwell (Junior), Miss Pamela Greenwell, together with members of the Senior Staff.

Sir John Wrightson and Mr. Peter Wrightson expressed great regret that they were not able to be present at this ceremony.

They both held Mr. Greenwell in great esteem and recall the time spent with him when they were studying Iron Foundry Practice.

A Merry Christmas and a  
Prosperous New Year  
to All