

# WRIGHT AHEAD

THE HEAD-WRIGHTSON NEWS LETTER

Vol. 3

DECEMBER 1951

No. 3



THE STAFF OF MESSRS. GIBSON BATTLE, OUR ASSOCIATED COMPANY IN AUSTRALIA, MR. PURNELL IS SEEN AMONG OUR FRIENDS.

A Merry Christmas and a  
Prosperous New Year  
to All.

## CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR'S LETTER

My Friends,

When I was asked to write a foreword to this number of "Wright Ahead" which is appearing just before Christmas, I looked up some descriptions of the first Christmas nearly two thousand years ago. I found:

*"Caesar Augustus sent forth a decree that all the world should be taxed,"* and later:

*"Peace on earth and goodwill towards men."*

The world apparently has not changed much in some directions, these last two thousand years. We are still taxed, and we still need peace on earth and goodwill towards men.

With regard to taxation, this is still in the hands of the Caesar Augustuses, though we elect them differently nowadays. With regard to "goodwill towards men," this is in our own hands.

To-day our goodwill is often measured, forunately or unfortunately, by what we "get out of it."

Unless we are lucky, most of us "get out of it" more or less what we "put into it." The whole country to-day is getting out £600m. a year more than it puts in. Our "kitty" is £1,000m., so it does not require a brilliant mathematician to calculate how long we can last out at the present rate.

As most of you know, some of our H.W. men have been given an opportunity of going to the U.S.A. with the Anglo-American productivity teams.

They come back and say that the people in the U.S.A. have more motor cars, television sets, refrigerators, and so on; and are able to give their children a better education, and to have better food, than people in this country.

These seem to be facts. There must be some reason for them. Though the natural resources of our country are now comparatively small, except for coal, and unfortunately we are not producing enough coal even for our own use these days, let alone to export to buy food, the total resources of our Commonwealth exceed those of the U.S.A.

There should be no fundamental reason why with our brains and skill, these resources should not be used to give us all at least as good a standard of living as they have in the U.S.A. At the moment we are not even able to maintain our lower standard.

It wants some thought and if we can arrive at the obvious conclusion, we should do something about it.

When I started to write this, I did not mean to develop so serious a theme; but it is most important and serious. All I had in mind was to convey to everybody the best wishes for a happy Christmas; a New Year better than the last; and the hope that we may have "peace on earth and goodwill towards men" so that we may build for our children a happier and better world.

Yours very sincerely,

*Richard Miles*

### NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE RT. HON. DUNCAN SANDYS, M.P., MINISTER OF SUPPLY

I send you readers my best wishes for their happiness in the new year. During 1952 we must continue our efforts to make our country strong and secure, for in this way alone can we play our part in preserving the peace of the world.

### HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?

One of those talkative women buttonholed a fisherman who was minding his own business and said: "Aren't you ashamed of yourself? A great big fellow like you might be better occupied than in cruelly catching this poor little fish."

"Maybe you're right, lady," said the fisherman, "but if this fish had kept his mouth shut he wouldn't be here."

Stationed in the Philippines, an American soldier picked some fruit, but he was afraid to eat without making some enquiries first.

He strolled over to a brown youngster, pointed to his mouth, then to the fruit and looked inquiringly at the boy. After going through this pantomime several times without result, he turned in despair to an approaching soldier.

"I was trying to find out if this was good to eat," he explained.

The young native's face brightened.

"Hell, yes," he said, "It's got Vitamin B."

### Brawn Salesman

20 years experience Sales Manager big automobile firm Bombay desires similar or higher job. Can push any make of car or truck. (Advert in "Times of India")

### A La Russe

Auto Sales dependable used cars; all cars "vetoed" by expert before sale. "Cape Argus."

### ENGAGEMENTS

Congratulations to :--

#### Teesdale.

Mr. Arthur Vernon, Maintenance Department to Miss Rita James, Shipping Department.

### BIRTHS

#### TEESDALE STEEL FOUNDRY

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Baker on the birth of a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Coates on the birth of a son.

#### MIDDLESBROUGH WORKS MACHINE SHOP

Mr. and Mrs. D. Newey on the birth of a daughter.

#### ERECTION DEPT.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lewis on the birth of a son.

Mr. and Mrs. Knudsen on the birth of a son.



MR. & MRS. A. MOLLOY, MACHINE SHOP, TEESDALE.



MR. & MRS. C. WARD, TEESDALE STEEL FOUNDRY.

—◆—  
**MARRIAGES**

Best Wishes to :—

**STEEL FOUNDRY — TEESDALE**

Mr. C. Ward to Miss Doreen Hampton.

Mr. William Parkinson to Miss Jean Hall.

**BRIDGE YARD — TEESDALE**

Mr. Roy Husband to Miss Margaret Garvey.

**IRON FOUNDRY — EGGLESCLIFFE**

Mr. Fred Watton of Iron Foundry Costs to Miss Gladys Charters of Newsham, Blythe.

**MACHINE SHOP — TEESDALE**

Mr. A. Molloy to Miss E. Bridgewater.

—◆—  
**SILVER WEDDING**

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kenley on their silver wedding anniversary. Raymond is one of our older employees.



MR. & MRS. ROY HUSBAND, TEESDALE LIGHT ALLOY DEPT.

**DEATHS**

Condolences to :—

**EGGLESCLIFFE FOUNDRY**

The widow and family of Mr. Jack Wharton, Yard Foreman. He will be greatly missed by men and Management.

The family of Mr. Jack Turnbull, who died at the age of seventy nine. Mr. Turnbull was at work till a few months ago.

**STEEL FOUNDRY**

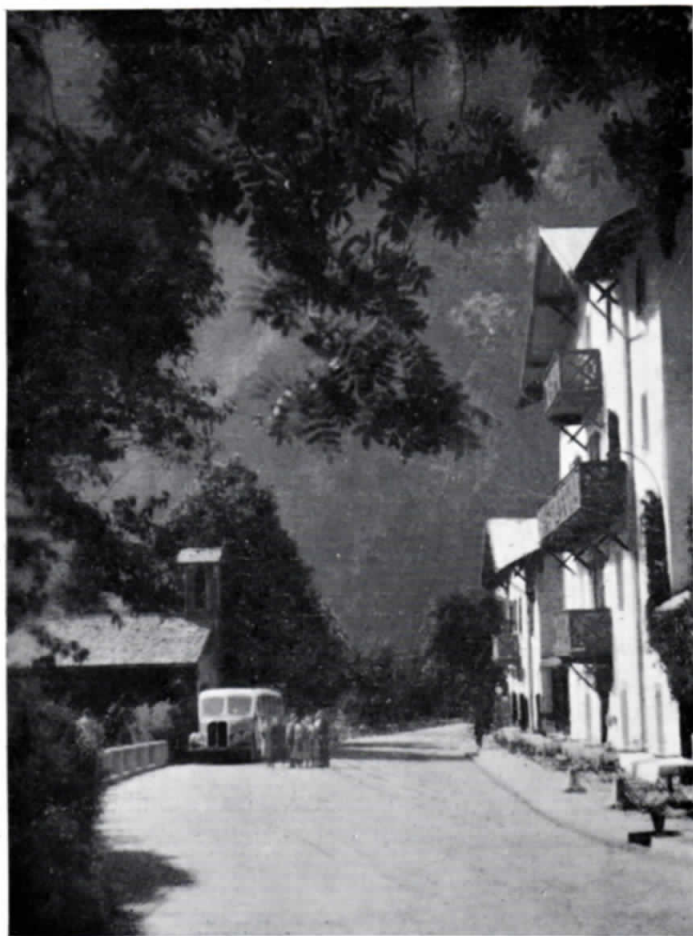
The widow and family of Mr. J. Knox.  
 The widower and family of Mrs. Cowley.



"A COOLER"



"HAPPY DAYS"



"AUSTRIAN EYRIE"

---



---

#### Prizewinners

1st Prize—"A Cooler" from R. F. Bargewell, General Office, H.W. Machine Co.

2nd Prize—"Happy Days" from B. A. Poyner, D.O., H.W. Aluminium.

3rd Prize—"Austrian Eyrie" from D. Earnshaw, Accounts Dept., H.W. & Co., Teesdale.

We offer our hearty congratulations to the prizewinners. The judges had a difficult task in picking out the winners. We trust that all those who were unsuccessful in this year's competition, will try again next year as the standard of this year's entries was very high.

---



---

**DIVISIONAL NEWS****H.W. STEEL FOUNDRIES****Teesdale**

Since the last issue of "Wright Ahead" the Steel Foundry has suffered the loss of two employees, Mr. J. Knox and Mrs. Cowley. Mr. Knox had been employed in the Steel Foundry Dressing Yard for a number of years. His death was quite a shock to his workmates and he will be greatly missed by his colleagues.

Mr. Cowley, was also employed in the Dressing Yard and had been in ill-health for some time.

Congratulations to Mr. F. Cuthbert on winning the Veterans' Race at the recent swimming gala. This is the second time an employee of the Steel Foundry has won this event.

**IRON FOUNDRIES DIVISION****Egglecliffe.**

Goodbyes were said to Mr. Joe Boston, of the Cost Office in September when he left to pursue a career with a local concrete firm.

**GENERAL**

Although we cannot yet boast of having the finest Iron Foundries in the Country the new scheme at Egglecliffe is noticeably progressing and the new buildings have brought forth admiring comments from visitors and interested passers by.

The Gardens have also merited well earned recognition: the hard work and vision of the gardener, Mr. Smith, have transformed what was once an area of weed and rubble into a really artistic display.

**Congratulations**

To Miss Kathleen Moss of Egglecliffe Wages Department on her success in the recent Stockton Musical Festival when she won the Soprano Class (16-21 years). Miss Moss received a silver medal for the Class and the Swift Cup for having the highest number of marks.

To Mr. George Catchpole, Chief of Egglecliffe Wages Department on his appointment as Vice-Chairman of the Stockton Rural District Council.

**H.W. MACHINE CO.****Table Tennis.**

The Staff Team at Middlesbrough Works, having won promotion from the "C" Division to the "A" Division in two seasons, is now enjoying matches in the Top grade of the Middlesbrough and District League.

The promotion team of R. Botterill, D. Burns, P. Ball and I. Atkinson have made a good start to the season winning two of the first four games.

A welcome return to Mr. F. V. Hall after his long enforced absence. It is to be hoped that his recovery is complete, as, no doubt, this will check the claims of Mr. Steve Stone and Co. to be undisputed Bowls Champs.

Maurice Gibson is knocking around the Pyramids, and says he is feeling "full of grit" and thinking kindly of all his old pals.

Once again the Stockton Amateur Stage Society has called upon Mr. R. H. Davies, (M'bro's Chief Draughts man). He is to take the part of Jeremiah in their next production — Lionel Monckton's "Quaker Girl" — in the New Year, and we are further represented by Miss Doris Blows of the Cost Dept. who is playing "Toinette."

Mr. Richard Blakey will be the Musical Director.

**GOLF**

Mr. T. H. Hall of the H.W. Machine Company was this year's winner of the Miles Cup presented to Head, Wrightson Staff Golf Society.

**McKEE IRON AND STEEL DIVISION**

Since the previous issue of "Wright Ahead", the staff have been to see what "This Summers' Job" is all about. On the 22nd August, at the previously unknown hour of twenty past six, almost the entire staff of the McKee

Division together with representatives from other Divisions and Companies of the H.W. Organisation, were meeting at prearranged places to join buses, with Shotton as the destination. The three buses carrying about a hundred people joined forces in Yarm Road, Stockton at half past six and the course was set. At half past eight the party was drinking tea at Leeds and at half past twelve sitting down to lunch in Chester.

As soon as lunch was over the party was transported to the site where it was met by Colonel Marsden and then given a few words of welcome and explanation by Mr. Reeth Gray, Director of Messrs. John Summers & Sons Ltd. He pointed out the urgent need to finish the furnace by September 1952 in order to provide iron for the other plants so that they could regain 100% production, thereby assisting in the national effort to increase output. Then down to "Cheyne's Domain" to see the conversion of waste land into a Blast Furnace Plant. A considerable amount of foundation and concrete work had been done by Leonard Fairclough Ltd., the civil engineering contractors, but this could not be fully appreciated as much was lost to view below ground level. However, the main item, the furnace itself, was well advanced and all members of the party shewed keen interest in it, particularly as it was made in Head, Wrightson's shops.

After a quick cup of tea Summers persuaded the party to look over their hot strip mill. It did not take much persuasion and everyone seemed to enjoy watching this wonderful plant in operation, converting the blooms into steel coils in a matter of minutes.

After this the party returned to Chester where tea was served and eventually started for home. After an uneventful journey during which many heads rolled from side to side, home was reached about half past one on Thursday morning. It seemed a long day for such a short time on the site but to those who had not been before it was most enlightening and helpful, for as they draw or write about some item of the Summers' Plant they will realise the magnitude and importance of the scheme to which every item, however small, is necessary.

**THE BACHELOR**

—is a man who wouldn't take yes for an answer

—has no children to speak of.

Newspapers are like women. Why? Because they have forms, back-numbers are not in demand, they always have the last word, they are well worth looking over, they have a great deal of influence, you can't believe everything they say, there's small demand for the bold-faced type, they're much thinner than before. Every man should have one and not borrow his neighbour's

**BANANA v SAUSAGE**

This remarkable statement was written by an Oriental student educated in America:

"The banana are great remarkable fruit. They are constructed in the same architectural style as Sausage. Difference being skin of Sausage are habitually consumed, while it is not advisable to eat rapping of Banana.

"Banana are held aloft while devoured. Sausages are left in reclining position. Sausage depend for creation on human being or stuffing machine, while Banana are pristine product of mother nature.

"In case of Sausage, both conclusions are attached to other Sausages. Banana on other hand, are joined on one end to the stem and opposite termination are entirely loose."

**ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE BRIGADE**

It is with interest that we learn that Mr. J. G. Allen, Steel Foundries' Director, has been made President of the Stockton & Thornaby Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Mr. Allen has been keenly interested in this work for many years.



### THE NEW TEESDALE CANTEEN

The Teesdale Canteen has finally been completed and we had an official opening on Monday, 24th September, 1951. Our Chairman Mr. Richard Miles, made a speech, declared the Hall open and expressed the wish that the better facilities which had been provided would be used to the full and appreciated by all.

Mr. Miles was supported by Sir John Wrightson and the Mayor of Thornaby and Several of our civic and Trades Union friends were present.

The Hall is large enough to provide 350 lunches at any one time and the most modern and up-to-date kitchen equipment is provided. A hardwood floor has been put

in which allows us to have a first class dance floor when the tables and chairs are cleared. A stage and dressing rooms are also provided and it is hoped that, eventually, amateur theatrical shows may be developed.

Quite a few of our Departments and Divisions have made applications for bookings for the use of these premises and as these facilities have been provided for the whole of the organisation, the Personnel Department will be glad to make bookings for any kind of party which a Department would like to give. It is also available, by permission of the Board, for private or family parties, always providing that the person concerned is a member of our organisation.



### FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS AT BRANCHES

The first picture shows the interior of the new canteen at Egglecliffe Foundry which again has all the most modern types of cooking equipment etc.

Our second picture shows one of the shops completed at Egglecliffe Foundry. In this building there is an up-to-date ambulance room, pattern shop and machine shop.

It is good to note that our Iron Foundry Division is now being provided with improved premises and we look forward to the day when the whole of the project at Egglecliffe is completed and our men are able to do their work under the most ideal conditions.



**DEMOCRACY**

Democracy . . . what is it. There are plenty of definitions . . . and quite a few examples.

We are living in one. But you can live in a wood, and not be able to see it because of the trees. There are plenty of platform and exercise-book definitions of democracy . . . but we don't live on a platform, nor get much of a kick from reading exercise books.

Democracy is the line that forms on the right . . . it is the queue that forms itself . . . it is the "don't SHOVE." It is the hole in the stuffed shirt through which the sawdust slowly trickles . . . it is the dent in the high hat . . . the joke which cracks the facade.

Democracy is the recurrent suspicion that more than half of the people are right more than half the time. It is the feeling of privacy in the voting booths, the feeling of vitality at the Saturday match.

Democracy is a letter to the editor . . . the score at the beginning of the ninth.

It is an idea which hasn't been disproved yet, a song the words of which have not gone bad. It's the mustard in the ham sandwich, the collar on the pint. It is playing a game of tennis with your boss and doing your best to beat him.

Democracy is minding your own business—and conversely it is also spreading ideas you feel are worth while.

Democracy is also—taken for granted.

◆

**LETTER TO "WRIGHT AHEAD" FROM  
OUR AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED COMPANY  
GIBSON BATTLE & CO., LTD.,  
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.  
DECEMBER, 1951**

At this time of the year, as at home, Sydney is very full of people doing Christmas shopping and looking forward to a rest from work over the Christmas holidays. The great difference, of course, is that it is now approaching mid summer; the days are sunny and hot and we have had serious bush fires all around due to the exceptionally hot and dry weather. Many valuable sheep and cattle have been burned and thousands of acres of timber destroyed. Some homes on the outskirts of Sydney too were burnt in the fires.

It is remarkable that though many Australians have never been to England, they almost invariably refer to the "old country" as "home," and are never tired of talking about England and all that goes on there.

There is quite a noticeable American influence, due I feel to the large number of Americans based on Australia, during the War in the Pacific and American films. It takes only three days by Air to get here from San Francisco, as against four days from London.

As a newcomer here I notice particularly:—

- The friendliness of the Australian people.
- Their easy going ways.
- The neatness and freshness of their dress.
- The number of "foreigners" here—"New Australians" they call them—coming from Europe—under the policy of bringing out 200,000 immigrants each year.
- The variety and attractiveness of new houses being built all around, though there is a great housing shortage.
- The abundance of food and sunshine.
- The high cost of living.
- The air mindedness of the people.
- The vast distances to be covered.

Our new Australian Associated Company, Gibson Battle & Co., Limited have, in addition to Head Office, Sales Staff and Drawing Office, a small iron foundry making very good iron castings; an engineering works comprised of pattern shop, boiler shop and machine shop, doing a variety of high class engineering work. Their manufactures include complete foundries, coal handling plant, crushers, water screens, battery driven locomotives, large valves for water control, sprockets for chain drives and a variety of general engineering work.

An idea of our size may be gained from the following figures of personnel employed:—

Head Office Commercial and Sales Staff	78
Store and Despatch	15
Drawing Office	33
Engineering Shops	117
Iron Foundry	28
Outside Erectors	15
	286

Our Erection Staff are engaged on contracts so far apart as Mount Isa Mines, Mackay and Townsville in Northern Queensland, Melbourne and Perth, some of them distances from 2-3,500 miles from Sydney.

Probably because of their isolation, the Australians will take on the making of many complicated products we would hesitate to tackle at home.

Australia makes the cheapest steel in the world—due to the high iron content and accessibility of her iron ore. Production is at the rate of one and a half million tons a year, against our fifteen million tons at home. The average price of sectional material is £27 per ton. Because of the shortage of steel, however and the heavy demand, many engineering firms have been using imported plate and sectional material at a landed Australian cost of around £100 per ton.

The basis of the Australian economy is the wool growing industry, which brings in over £600 millions per annum. In 1930 the price was 30d. per lb. Sales this year have been at 280d. per lb., making money generally plentiful.

Company Tax at 9/- in the £1 is in line with our 9/- at home.

A forty hours working week has been in operation since 1948, though most people admit that it is too short and there is talk of a return to a forty four hours week.

There is no rationing as at home (excepting of electrical power) but nevertheless this year there have been temporary shortages of butter, milk and potatoes.

By far the majority of goods for sale in the shops are "Made in England."

The Staff and workpeople at Gibson Battle & Company are anxious to learn all possible about Head, Wrightson & Company and to emulate their lead. The foundations for similar development here are well laid and if you could see the extensive development which is taking place in this young and growing country you would have no doubt that in due course we shall take pride in the achievements of our Australian Associates, who ask me to convey their warmest Seasonal greetings from all at G.B. to all at H.W.

R. Purnell



### H.W. PERSONALITIES

#### JOHN WALLER—CHIEF BUYER

Mr. John Waller, because of his unique position as chief buyer, is one of the few members of our Commercial Staff who is well-known throughout the organisation.

He commenced his service with the Company in 1902 as an order clerk and, having knowledge of a great variety of work, became buyer of all iron and steel in 1920 and, eventually, in 1938 became chief buyer for the whole of the organisation.

The responsibility for buying the right materials in the best markets and ensuring their delivery at the proper time has never been more difficult than it is today and Mr. Waller has vivid recollections of the ease with which these operations used to be performed during his earlier life with the Company.

He has seen many changes in the Company's fortunes and has played no small part in giving valuable help in critical times.

Some of the older members of the organisation will remember Mr. Waller's prowess on the cricket field when he used to play in local league cricket and we learn that his best season was when he took 59 wickets for 99 runs.

Mr. Waller also played football and still retains his interest in the sporting field but his life-long hobby, in which he still finds an interest, is gardening.

Our Chief buyer is very much on top of his job and his dry humour is much appreciated by his colleagues. All join in wishing him continued good health as he enters his 50th year of service.

For many years, a familiar sight around our works has been the little "locos" which, day in and day out, pull their heavy loads of trucks, servicing all departments. Our picture shows the first "locos" and the bearded driver and his mate. This dates back to 1875 and though,



officially, we are still using the same locos, one can well imagine that the amount of spare parts and replacements which have been fitted, has just about rebuilt these engines four or five times over. Though they still manage to perform their worthwhile function, it has been found necessary to improve the locomotive service and new diesel locos have been obtained for Teesdale, Forge and Egglecliffe and our picture shows the new Jones K.L.100 Diesel Driven Shunting Crane at Egglecliffe. This latter is, of course, dual purpose and it does a tremendous amount of loading as well as pulling the trucks.

