

# WRIGHT AHEAD

THE HEAD-WRIGHTSON NEWS LETTER

Vol. 3

DECEMBER 1952

No. 4



VIEW SHOWN ON THE COMPANY'S OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS CARD, 1952.

The original photograph was taken by Mr. B. A. Poyner of H.W. Aluminium Ltd., Drawing Office. He also won this year's Holiday Photograph competition. The view is of Bilsdale

**A Merry Christmas  
and a  
Prosperous New Year  
to All**

## CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR'S LETTER

It is not easy to realise that a whole year has gone by since I wrote my last letter for the Christmas number of our Works Newspaper. Though the time has seemed to pass very quickly, many things have happened.

In the first place our sympathy goes out to those of us who have met adversity, bereavement, sickness and

other troubles. We hope that the coming year will bring comfort and healing.

In the second place we rejoice with those whose affairs have prospered. We have much to be thankful for. We hope that fortune will continue her favours.

At this time of the year we "sum up new resolves." May they be such that they will bring the greatest happiness to all.

Your Directors and Management join me in sending you their sincerest good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

*Richard Miles*

#### BIRTHS.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Murphy, (Pattern Shop) Stockton Steel Foundry—a son.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Ward, (Steel Foundry) Teesdale—a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Dixon, (H.W. Aluminium Ltd.)—a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Watton, Iron Foundries Division (Cost Office—a daughter.

#### The Head, Wrightson Machine Co.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Marsden, Pattern-maker—a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Paton, Pattern-maker—a son.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Hunt, Planning—a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Clarke, D.O.—a daughter.

#### Stockton Forge.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Young—a daughter.



MR. & MRS. K. Q. REYNOLDS.



MR. & MRS. HARRISON TOWNSEND.

#### ENGAGEMENTS.

##### Iron Foundries Division.

Miss Kathleen Moss, Egglecliffe Wage, to Mr. Douglas Haswell.

##### H.W. Aluminium Ltd.

Mr. Gordon Crawford, Alloy Shop, to Miss Elsie Miller.

##### The Head, Wrightson Machine Co.

Mr. A. Husband, Erector, (now on National Service) to Miss June Jones of Birmingham.



MR. & MRS. G. W. FOSTER.

#### MARRIAGES.

##### H.W. Processes Ltd.

Miss I. J. Stanton, General Office, to Mr. G. W. Foster, Contracts Dept.

##### Steel Foundries Division, Teesdale.

Mr. J. Oliver to Miss Janet Carruthers, Core Shop.

##### The Head, Wrightson Machine Co.

Mr. Harrison Townsend, (Tech. Edt. Dept.) to Miss Eva Wilson.

Mr. George Green, Erectors, to Miss Kathleen Craven.

Mr. Peter Deakin to Miss Norma Lagus.

Mr. K. Q. Reynolds to Miss J. C. S. Witchell, D.O.

##### Stockton Forge.

Mr. John Kirton to Miss Eileen Doherty, (Fitting Shop).



MR. & MRS. JOHN KIRTON.

**GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.**

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Green celebrated their Golden Wedding on 11th November, 1952. Mr. Green is employed in the Store House at Stockton Steel Foundry. All our readers wish them continued health and happiness.

**SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.**

Mr. and Mrs. L. Harper, of the Forgings (Maintenance) Department, Teesdale celebrated their Silver Wedding on 12th November, 1952. We hope to report their Golden Wedding in this paper.

Mr. Alfred Whitehead of the Machine Shop, celebrated his silver wedding on 19th November last. His colleagues offer heartiest congratulations.

**DEATHS.**

**The Head, Wrightson Machine Company.**

Condolences to the wife and family of Mr. R. R. Johnson.

**SWIMMING SECTION.**

The 3rd Annual Swimming Gala was held in the Corporation Baths, Stockton, on Wednesday, 12th Nov.

Whilst entries were rather below last year the standard of swimming was well above average.

Event winners were as under:—

**Junior Boys, 10—12 Years, One length free style:—**

1. G. R. Harper 2. M. Reeves 3. E. Norton

**Junior Boys, 12—14 Years, One length free style:—**

1. H. Ayre 2. C. Allen

**Junior Boys, 15 Years, One length free style:—**

1. D. K. Robinson 2. M. H. Soppet 3. M. Harper

**Junior Girls, 10—12 Years, One length free style:—**

1. J. Lacy 2. M. Dalton 3. C. Dalton

**Ladies, One length free style:—**

1. M. Soppet 2. A. Lacy 3. J. C. Wood

**Gents, Veterans' One length free style:—**

1. W. Mustard, Forge D.O. 2. R. Thompson, Forge D.O. 3. H. Squires, Forge B/Y

**Gents' Plain Dive:—**

1. J. Poole 2. P. Partridge 3. H. Broady

In this event the Judges had great difficulty in placing the 1st and 2nd and several extra dives were made.

**Gents' Diving for Objects:—**

1. J. Brown 2. D. K. Robinson 3. H. Broady

**Gents' One length free style:—**

1. C. Marrison 2. P. Partridge 3. J. Brown

The Interdepartmental Relay Race (4 swimmers—one length each) was won by The Forge Bridge Yard.

The Apprentice School had already held the preliminary events for their Championship. The number of points for each house before the finals being:—

White House	13 points
Yellow ..	11 ..
Blue ..	7 ..
Red ..	6 ..

In the final the result was:—

- |                 |                     |                |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. M. H. Soppet | 2. J. G. Williamson | 3. G. Halliday |
| White House     | Blue House          | Yellow House   |

The winner was presented with a gold medal and the final placings were:—

White House	16 points
Yellow ..	12 ..
Blue ..	9 ..
Red ..	6 ..

There was an open Invitation Race and a Water Polo Match by the Stockton A.S.C., who provided the Bath-side Officials to whom our best thanks are extended, in particular to Mr. R. D. Alderson who was M.C. and Mr. George Young as starter.

Prizes were presented by Mr. C. H. Soppet, B.E.M.

Thanks are due to swimmers for their efforts in making this Gala a success and we would point out that more entries next year would create a better competitive spirit amongst departments.

Don't forget that whilst our regular open nights at the Baths are over for the winter, we shall be pleased to welcome all to our usual swimming sessions in the early part of next year. For dates see your Athletic representative.

**BOWLS NEWS.**

Mr. A. Lackenby presided at the Bowls Section's Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 17th October. The Secretary reported that there had been a record membership of both playing and social members during the past season.

The Wednesday team in the Cleveland and South Durham League again carried off the league championship (Cleveland Section) and all other teams finished well up the various leagues.

Teesdale Bridge Yard, captained by Mr. A. Littlewood, this year's Club Champion, won the Interdepartmental competition. Mr. R. Ormston won the 4-wood Handicap, beating Mr. D. Littlewood in the final.

Mr. A. Littlewood was elected President for the coming season and Mr. Farthing is again Secretary.

Our teams will compete in 5 leagues in the 1953 season so there is plenty of opportunity for all bowlers.

The Section announces the forthcoming events:—

- Social Evening—Wednesday, 4th February, 1953.
- Pantomime Outing—Saturday, 14th February, 1953
- Annual Dinner & Social Evening—Wednesday, 25th March, 1953. (Prov.)
- Whitsun Annual Outing, Blackpool—Week-end, 23rd May, 1953.

The Secretary pays tribute to Officers, Members and Players for their continued support and the Section offers warmest congratulations to Mr. A. Monk, the groundsman on having tied for the first prize, given by the "Yorkshire Evening Post," for the best level green in Yorkshire.

The Auditors, Mr. T. E. Littlewood and Mr. H. Ayre, supported by Mr. Lackenby thanked the Secretary for his efficient service during the past season.



#### HIGHLAND HOLIDAY

##### Prizewinners.

1st Prize — "Highland Holiday" from B. A. Poyner, D.O., H.W. Aluminium.

2nd Prize — "It hurts me to laugh" from R. F. Bargewell, General Office, The H.W. Machine Co.

3rd Prize — "Broads Smiles" from D. L. Hall, Personnel Department.

We offer hearty congratulations to the winners. To those who were not successful — better luck for next year.



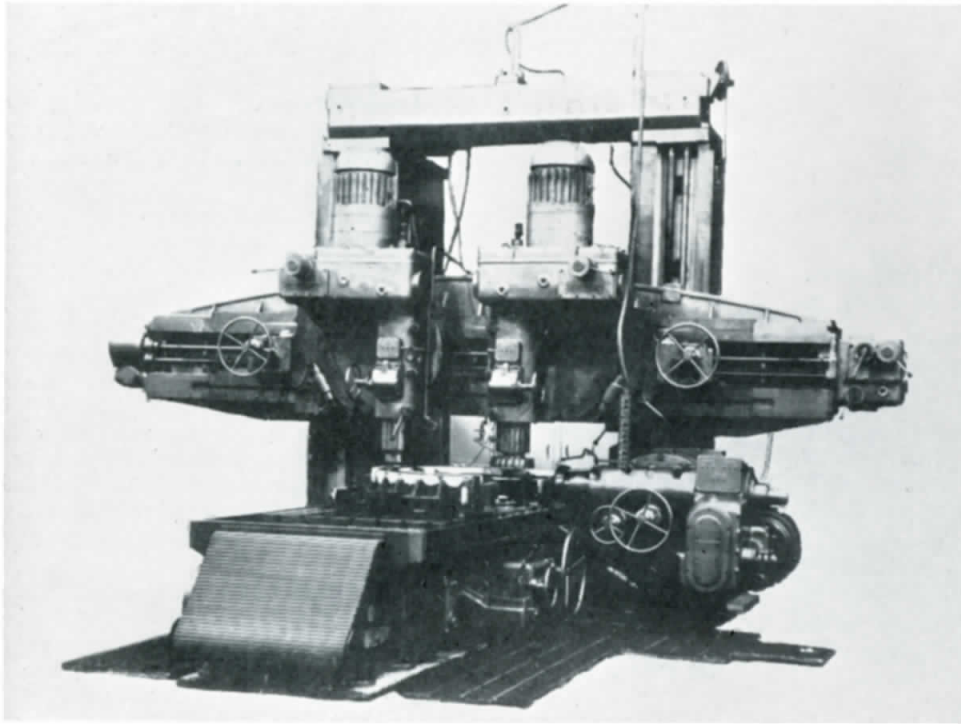
IT HURTS ME TO LAUGH



BROADS SMILES

## DIVISIONAL NEWS.

## ENGINEERING DIVISION.



## Machine Shop.

Included in this issue is a photograph of one of our latest machines—Kendall & Gent's Plano milling machine. As you can see it is a most modern design. In fact it was delivered to the Machine Shop direct from the Machine Tools Exhibition at Olympia, London. So after being under the critical gaze of the world's engineers, it is put to the test in our shop. No doubt the following details will interest you. The machine itself weighs 50 tons and has three spindles each  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter. Two of the milling heads are on the cross-slides and the other on the right hand upright. The operator has the choice of 16 speeds for these heads ranging from 10 to 260 Revs. per minute. It machines any casting to a maximum of 14' long, 5' wide and 4' high. Depending on the material to be cut the machine can be set to cut at the rate of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " a minute to as high as 18" per minute. When the machine is cutting with all three heads, metal which used to take hours to remove now only takes minutes. Also, you will note from the photograph how conveniently situated are the push button controls. From these few brief details, you will realise the immense possibilities of the machine and the new type of work for which we can now cater. Another special feature is the finish. It is a quality one usually associates with a high class car.

We wish a speedy recovery to good health for two of our old workmates, John Dixon (Personnel Department) and Arthur (Cud) Forster (retired after 46 years.) At the time of going to press both were improving.

This Department sends the Season's Greetings to all fellow employees.

Speaking of Christmas reminds me of a story going the rounds. It appears that a well-known toolroomite so keen to have a good time, decided to go so far as to save up. After being paid, he went up to the bank, so amazed was the clerk, that he turned to the young lady assistant and said "Miss, don't bother to enter it, put it on one side—he'll be in for it on Monday."

## Constructional Department.

Our correspondent reports that Mr. G. Semple, winner of the Miles Trophy 1952, was not, as stated in our last issue, the first man from the Department to win this Cup. This honour went to Mr. L. Wardle who won the cup in the first competition ever held. We apologise to Mr. Wardle but hope he will forgive the error as a good many years have intervened.

## Visit to Cargo Fleet Works.

On Saturday, 29th November, 1952, twenty-five of our men went on a visit to Cargo Fleet Iron Works. The party with the usual punctuality of the Bridge Yard were all present and correct at the starting time. On arrival at Cargo Fleet we went and saw the coke ovens where there was so much coal dust floating about that one chap (rubbing his eyes) was heard to say, "will they say anything if they catch us taking a bag of coal out." We also saw one of the tip furnaces being emptied and then we saw the ingots coming from the ingot furnaces. The ingots were hammered into long lengths prior to being rolled into joists. Our guide explained each process and kept us keenly interested throughout our tour.

This visit gave us the opportunity of seeing the components manufactured in our Bridge Yard in use in the various processes.

Another party of twenty-five made the same tour on 6th December. We should like to record the department's thanks to the Management for arranging the visit, which we trust will be the fore-runner of many to various other firms where our equipment is in use. We are grateful too, to our hosts for their patience and kindness throughout the visit.

Mr. A. Johnson, one of our platers, sailed for Australia with his wife and family—we wish them every success in their new venture.

## STEEL FOUNDRIES DIVISION.

## Teesdale.

The Steel Foundry have a number of employees who have been unable to follow their employment for a considerable time. Amongst these are Mr. T. Laroche, Mr. Paddy Heslin, Mr. T. Trotter, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Roxby, Mr. A. Farrow and Mrs. Mathews. They are remembered by their fellow workers who hope they will soon be restored to health.

On the occasion of Mr. Mercer's retirement, the Teesdale group held a smoking concert in the Black Lion Hotel. Amongst those present were Mr. Geo. Allen, Mr. F. Harris, Mr. H. Lamb, Mr. Joe James and Mr. Jack Carter. Mr. R. Kenley was in the Chair and Mr. A. Dunger presented a 7-day Chiming Clock to Mr. Mercer on behalf of the department. Mr. Dunger said he hoped that the chiming of the clock would remind Mr. Mercer of the many happy days he spent in the Steel Foundry. Mr. West ably seconded the remarks made by Mr. Kenley, and wished Mr. Mercer a long and happy retirement. After the presentation, entertainment was provided by the Acme Concert Party. It was agreed that the organisers had made an exceedingly good job of the evening's arrangements.

Mr. Geo. Allen is now our General Manager and Mr. L. Johnson is Assistant to the General Manager—we offer them congratulations on their appointments.

We are pleased to welcome to our staff, Mr. H. Hamilton, who comes from Scotland. We hope he will find his Tees-side friends as congenial as those he left behind in Scotland.

In a recent issue of this magazine, mention was made of long service employees in other divisions, we are pleased to report that we have four stalwarts who come into this class — they are Messrs. Mankin, Cheetham, Howe and Wesson. We wish them many years of continued health and employment.

Recently, the women's core floor has been the scene of great improvements—the lights are almost as good as those at Blackpool.

Many of us regard summer as the only time for 'bus outings but some enthusiastic supporters of the "Boro" braved the elements and went to see the local team play at Blackpool. Some of our men who stand "Heat" better than cold—say they'll never do it again—others, with stouter hearts will try again.

The Division wishes to convey to all their fellow employees their very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

#### Foundry Developments.

Teesdale Steel Foundry send congratulations to the Works Engineering Department for completing the Induction Bay building with practically no interruption to production.

The full productive capacity of the moulding machines has never been achieved due to the very limited space available, especially around the Pneulec machines. A considerable sum in capital expenditure has been spent to improve our facilities and thus enable more castings to be produced to meet the growing demand of our customers, particularly in the oil refining industry.

Employees in the Steel Foundry can now see the scheme taking shape. A fine new core-drying stove is in operation. It is the first of its type in the country and is already proving its worth.

Extended roller tracks from each moulding machine will obviate the necessity for so many crane lifts. After casting, the boxes will run on the outer track to a vibrator shake-out and when empty, they will return to the box stove on a gravity roller track for re-use.

In the dressing section, the two tum-blasts have been re-positioned and it is the intention to organise the various finishing operations such as removing heads, shot blasting, annealing inspection etc., to ensure an even flow of work which should result in minimizing the time lag in this section and ensure delivery to the customer at the earliest possible date after cast.

When our re-organisation of the machine moulding section is completed by the positioning of the Universal machines alongside the Pneulec machines, we should have a very fine layout and it is then up to us all to see that our quality and service is the best in the country.

'A' and 'B' furnaces are now getting old. The Company has placed an order for a new electric furnace of 10 Ton capacity and plans have been prepared to extend the melting bay eastwards to accommodate the new furnace.

#### Stockton Steel Foundry—25 years of age.

During the early part of the year 1927, the then Chairman, Sir Guy Wrightson, and his directors had before

them a certain project, which concerned premises in Light Pipe Hall Road, Stockton-on-Tees, called the Stockton Steel Foundry.

In their wisdom they went ahead and purchased these Works and after a certain amount of repairs and adjustments had been carried out, this Works was re-opened for the production of Steel Castings on 25th October, 1927.

Under Mr. Mercer's guidance, production grew from 6 tons of finished castings for week ending 9th November, 1927, to 111 tons of finished castings for week ending 30th November, 1952.

The peak year for melting was that ending October, 1942, when 4,821 Tons of steel were melted.

During the period of depression of 1932 and 1933, the Foundry was closed down for 7½ months, but was re-opened again in March, 1933.

The production of manganese castings was destined to be a prominent feature of the work at Stockton Steel Foundry, a peak delivery of these castings was reached in June, 1938 when 25 Tons of Castings were delivered in one week.

Thus the foresight of 25 years ago reaps its reward.

Our order book is now in a very healthy condition and we look forward to many years of producing steel castings.

Mr. J. Mulligan, a labourer in the Foundry has retired. His colleagues wish him a long and happy retirement.

They hope for a speedy recovery of Mr. J. Green and Mr. E. Lyons who have been absent from work for a considerable time.

#### IRON FOUNDRY DIVISION.

Congratulations to:—

Mr. George Catchpole, Chief Wages Clerk at Egglecliffe Foundry, who, following his appointment as Chairman of the Stockton Urban District Council now becomes a member of the Magistrates Bench (ex. officio) and who was welcomed by the Stockton Bench in July.

Miss Kathleen Moss of Egglecliffe Wages Department who adds to her many successes in the Musical Field by winning the Silver Cup for Soprano Solo (Open) at the West Hartlepool Musical Festival in November and for also securing second place in the same class at the recent Stockton Musical Festival.

As the year is drawing to a close the Iron Foundries personnel would like to thank all other departments for past co-operation and wish them a Merry Festive Time and A Happy and Successful 1953.

#### FORGINGS DIVISION.

We should like to take this opportunity of extending to all management, staff and workmen in all of H.W. departments our very best wishes for the future. We should also like to thank "The Editor" of our magazine for being so tolerant and impartial.

We are rapidly approaching the festive season and tonsils are being scraped or scrapped in impromptu choirs.

It can be assumed safely that throughout the years, all have experienced the vagaries of fortune to some extent but no departments have had the ups and downs of the forgings shops. So in the forthcoming years let's hope that both Seaton and Teesdale have tons of them.

Its been said for years and years,  
By wise men and by clowns  
That our lives are full of things  
We call up and downs.

We often wondered what they were  
And how they came about  
But not until quite recently  
Did some of us find out.

'Twas in the forging shop one day  
Observed the stampers frowns  
And then we realised that their pay  
Was made from ups and downs.

We are pleased to have Mr. A. Chilton, our Director and General Manager back with us again from his heavy programme as "Ambassador at Large" in U.S.A. and Canada. Already he has given talks, illustrated by a beautiful coloured film, and it is hoped to offer an opportunity for more of our people to hear this story and to see the film.

Mr. Chilton kept a most interesting diary of day to day happenings during his visit and, no doubt, we shall be receiving an extract for publication in our next issue.

### STOCKTON FORGE.

#### Prototype Mystery.

On 10th November, Stockton Forge washed its hands, (i.e. despatched) the first of two machines hopefully designated "Apron Feeder Cars."

The many curious features which became more and more apparent as the shop assembly reached its final stage produced numerous guesses concerning the purpose for which it was intended. The most polite of these being "The B.R.M. Mark III" and "Albert Greenwood's second Secret Weapon."

Though the illustration cannot be termed authentic, the Fitting Shop "runner" is willing to lay "evens" on its chance of success in this sphere.

Messrs. Snowden, Sowerby and Gill, who had fingers in the pie during the fifty-three stages of revisions and amendments, are at least optimistic about its future. Their combined opinion is that in the event of its failure to do the impossible, it would be well worth every penny to buy back and retain as a museum piece.

In view of the very cursory inspection, the Drawing Office have only one very far reaching comment—"It will either work—or it won't."

The Drawing Office expresses the hope that:—

"The gentleman who decided that hemp sacking provides the best medium for drying hands will be specially remembered."

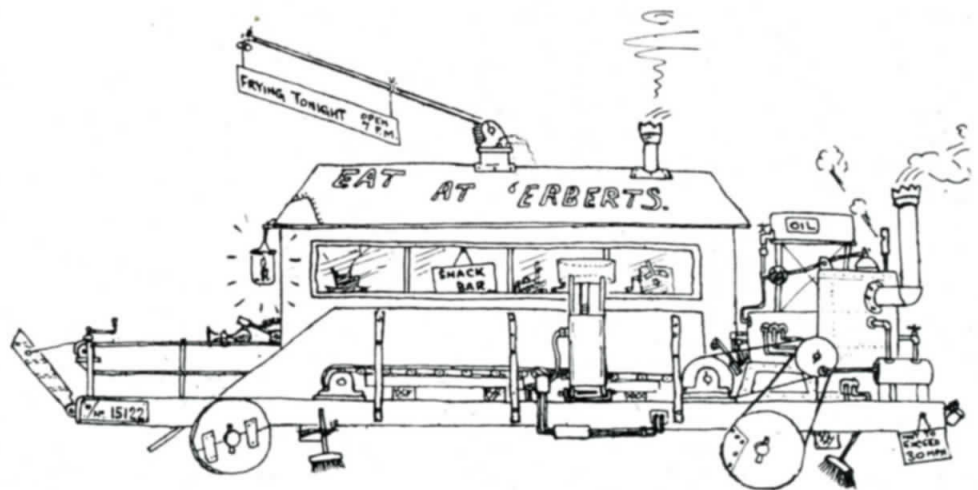
"We all receive one of Mr. Jennings' Christmas cards which we understand have been designed in the form of a "Mardy" progress chart."

"Josie will be as happy on the occasion of her wedding—13th December—as John Neville was when he sold his last Corgi."

"Tommy Young will now leave well enough alone. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Young on the birth of your daughter."

"John Coulson will divulge his secret method of extending one week's holiday into twenty three separate days fishing !"

"Finally, Stockton Forge will continue to make a success of the peculiar orders which other branches consider uneconomical, impracticable and very often impossible."



Our congratulations to Mr. Alan Sowerby of the Forge D.O. Alan has been awarded a 6 months free scholarship in Physical Training at the Gerlev College in Denmark. He is a teacher of physical training at evening classes under the Durham county educational scheme and is a keen sports enthusiast. Stockton Rugby Club will feel his loss on their team this season. Alan sailed on October 28th and we shall expect to hear of his experiences when he returns to his board next April.

We wish a speedy recovery to our friends, Messrs. J. J. Thompson, E. Dobson, T. Cooper, H. Hobday, J. Hornby, C. Hurne and G. Smith, all of whom have been ill for a long time.

Our sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Green at the loss of their daughter, Margaret. Those of us who knew Margaret, who was 19, remembered her cheery disposition and good nature, and later the wonderful hope and courage she displayed during her lengthy illness.

### THE HEAD, WRIGHTSON MACHINE CO., LTD.

This Division is very pleased to welcome back Mr. George Beckwith and hopes that he is fully recovered from his illness. Mr. Beckwith was very much missed, partly because there is a good deal of him to miss. We were glad to make re-acquaintance with a tall sunburnt fellow, who called everybody "cobber"—it was difficult to associate him with the "D.A.A." we knew.

Congratulations to Bob Baker who has gained "The Alderman Worsley Scholarship," to Robin Botterill now a shining light in the Middlesbrough Table Tennis Team, and to Ivan Atkinson who will soon be undergoing his annual "tonsorial operation."

A welcome is given to Miss Elsie Greenwell of the tracing department which seems to be expanding now—a policy, of course, with which we wholeheartedly agree.

Mr. Lambton ("Alan") won a medal for his success at Chess. May his success continue.

We wish a speedy recovery to Harry Bycroft, E. Glenc, Jack Robinson, Jim Dunkerley and C. Cooper.

Mr. E. Jopling has recently been accepted as an Associate Member of The Institution of Mechanical Engineers and we congratulate him on his success. Mr. Jopling has been our Resident Engineer at the Abbey Works of The Steel Company of Wales Ltd., Port Talbot, superintending the installation and starting up of our equipment there.

Messrs. N. C. Lake and W. H. Mather represented the Company at the official opening of the Trostre Works of The Steel Company of Wales Ltd., by the Minister of Supply. A great deal of interest was shown by the guests in the whole of this wonderful plant, and particularly in our Tinplate Classifiers.

The Trostre Works takes hot rolled coils of steel strip for the Abbey Works and converts this into tin plate for sale to the canning industry. The visitors were able to see the foundations covering a large area which has been prepared to receive the nine Hot Dip Tinning Units which we are now building.

It was unfortunate that the visit to the Abbey Works of The Steel Company of Wales of 700-800 members of The Iron and Steel Institute had to be cancelled, because a great deal of equipment installed there and built by H.W.M., was in operation, as well as a considerable amount supplied by other members of the Group.

Our interest in overseas business is still being maintained and we have recently delivered a Rotary Piercer for making copper tubes and a Roller Leveller for aluminium sheets to Australia, and three Bar Drawbenches and a Bar Reeler for the manufacture of bright drawn steel bars to France. We are now building machines for Canada, Italy, Spain and Australia.

Arrangements have been made recently for the Machine Company to sell and build Brosius Manipulators and Charging Machines. Mr. N. Bashford has been appointed Sales Engineer in charge of this section of our activities. He has recently returned from a visit to the U.S.A., where he was able to study the design, manufacture and applications of these machines. They are mobile units and are used (1) for the handling of forgings to and from furnaces and for the manipulation of these at the forging hammers, and (2) for the charging of melting furnaces.

We have recently made history by delivering the world's largest Triple Drawbench for copper tubes and what we believe to be the first Triple Drawbench for steel tubes. When these are installed they will probably produce tubing which will be used by the Engineering Division in making Heat Exchangers.

#### McKEE IRON AND STEEL DIVISION.

The tempo of life in this modern age—the age of jet air travel, television and even thoughts of interplanetary travel, seems to leave one little time to think. There is always something to do—the world and all its inhabitants seem to be constantly in a hurry.

It is good that one should avoid wasting time by working quickly and efficiently, but it is also wise to spend a little time occasionally to review life, to sit back and consider one's position as an individual and also as a member of the community. It is an Englishman's privilege to grumble and there are very few who do not take the opportunity of doing so from time to time, particularly, when life is hectic and is rushing by at a most disturbing rate. It takes a few minutes of quiet thought only, to make one realise the great number of things for which we must be thankful.

Christmas is almost here and with it comes the holiday which is enjoyed by all; the bright spot in winter's darkness, the holiday which most people spend in their own homes, with their own folk. Maybe during this time there will be an opportunity to think quietly and to appreciate in one's own mind all those things for which he or she must be thankful—above all the full significance of Christmas itself.

From time to time changes take place in the drawing office staff, but it seems that having tried other places, some ex members of the staff keeping turning up like bad pennies and return to the McKee Drawing Office.

This has recently happened and the familiar beaming countenance, now without moustache, of one of the old regulars is with us again. It is left with you to guess which member is referred to, but no doubt he will soon make his presence felt by his unusually witty tongue.

The staff of the McKee Iron & Steel Division would like to take this opportunity to wish, most sincerely, "A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year" to all other employees of the H.W. Group of Companies and to associates, representatives and friends throughout the world.

#### HEAD WRIGHTSON PROCESSES LIMITED.

After a lapse, H.W.P. is delighted to offer a contribution to the "News Letter" once more. We have been silent but by no means inactive.

Teesdale House Sports and Social Club has produced a variety of activities such as cricket, tennis, visits to theatres and a Holiday Snap Competition, during the past months—not forgetting the Annual Staff Dance, which is to be held on Friday, 19th December, 1952, when we may look forward to the usual festive atmosphere prevalent at these annual dances, held at the beginning of the Xmas season.

Our activities have by no means been confined to the social side, as will be seen from the following brief resume:—

Significant progress has been made in the sale of the "Counterflo" Cooling Tower, which we market in this Country under licence from the Fluor-Corporation of Los Angeles. Towers have been sold to the Chemical, Steel, Gas and Electrical Industries. Of particular importance is an order which has been obtained from the British Electric Authority, where we have been commissioned to supply a Cooling Tower for the Hackney Power Station. This is a great landmark, since the "Counterflo" Tower at Hackney will be the first large scale use of the mechanical cooling tower by the B.E.A.

Progress has also been made in the sale of Fin-Fan air cooled heat exchangers. We have obtained repeat orders for these units from the Iraq Petroleum Company for their oil pipe lines in the Middle East, and in this way have contributed towards making good the loss of crude oil produced from Iran.

In the field of refinery constructions, we have undertaken an important contract in collaborating with The Houdry Process Corporation of Philadelphia for major extensions on the Albatros Belge Refinery at Antwerp. These extensions involve the construction of a "Houdriflow" Catalytic Cracking Unit, and as such, is important in that this will be the first Catalytic Cracker engineered by H.W.P.

We have also made some extensions into other fields of activity outside the Petroleum Industry, and carried out the design work for the National Coal Board on a new type of packing required for the purification of coke oven gas.

May business continue in a brisk manner during the coming year.

Certain Staff changes have recently been effected, or are about to take place, among which, Mr. C. E. Mollison has been appointed as Chief Estimator, and Mr. H. W. Robb is to assume Chief Buyer's duties on the departure of Mr. H. J. Turner. There has also been one very big change in the staff, and it is suggested that a perusal of the Marriage Notices will provide the answer.

In conclusion H.W.P. Staff wish all our Friends a very Merry Xmas and a Prosperous New Year.





#### WRIGHT, BOAG & HEAD, WRIGHTSON, BENONI.

Our Associate Company in South Africa, Messrs. Wright, Boag & Head, Wrightson (Pty) Limited, recently brought into production a new Division for the manufacture, under Licence from the Caterpillar Tractor Company of America, of various fittings and ancillary equipment for use with the famous C.A.T. Tractors. These manufactures include bulldozers, scrapers, tool bars, tree stumpers and terracers.

In a comparatively new Country where much road and dam building is done, this type of equipment is naturally in heavy demand and in addition, an export trade has been built up to the Central African Territories and the Far East.

The photograph shows scrapers just issued from the plant and ready for delivery to Northern Rhodesia where they are to be used on the construction of strategic roads. These scrapers are operated hydraulically from the tractor cab and are drawn over surfaces from which soil is to be removed. A scraper blade removes several tons of soil which are forced into the main body of the machine by the machine's forward motion, after which the scraper is drawn by the tractor to the unloading point where it can be emptied at will—also by hydraulic gear. In this way dam walls, road cuttings and embankments are constructed.

Practically all this equipment is fabricated from steel sections and plates produced by the Union Government Steelworks at Pretoria and Vereeniging.

#### HEAD, WRIGHTSON ALUMINIUM LIMITED.

##### Social Activities.

The Alloy Shop team spirit is carried a step further when work is finished. Some of the men have formed the "Alloy Social Club" and meet at the Victoria Hotel, Thornaby, every Friday evening. All members of the Aluminium Division are invited, and are sure of a hearty welcome.

It is requested that platers, welders and others leave their tools and jobs in the shop, as the clubroom is not

large enough to allow manufacture of anything except a thirst!

Some of the men are versatile entertainers and keep club members happy with their songs and jokes. Christmas activities have been well under way for some time; among these are darts and dominoes knock-out competitions and a raffle.

The "Big Night" will be the Christmas "Breakup and Beano" in December, Entertainment will be provided by the "Cabaret Five" and refreshments have been arranged.

If club members are full of the Christmas spirit this event should prove to be the climax of 1952 activities.

The New Year has not been neglected. A pantomime trip has been organized and it is hoped to follow this with other trips throughout the year.

##### Personalities.

Congratulations to Wm. ("Tot") Sheldon, Club Secretary, who reached his half century when he celebrated his fiftieth birthday on 17th November.

Our Mr. B. A. Poyner, (D.O.), who is a keen photographer this year won the Head, Wrightson Christmas Card competition.

Last year "Bert" won three first prizes in the advanced section of the monthly competition in the "Amateur Photographer," and a third prize in the same competition. He also had two photographs published in "Everybody's" magazine and has won many similar awards.

Marion Soppet, youngest member of our staff, won the one length ladies free style race at H.W. Swimming Gala, in the very fast time of 13 secs. A future champion perhaps?

Mr. Bob Love of the D.O. came out of hospital in November, after a long illness. We all wish him a speedy recovery in his convalescence.



SCENE FROM "ON MONDAY NEXT."

### H.W. DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

The Head, Wrightson Dramatic Society presented their second production, "On Monday Next," a comedy by Philip King, in Teesdale Hall for three nights commencing December 3rd, to a comparatively small but greatly appreciative audience.

The story is a rehearsal for a forthcoming play by members of a Repertory Company and the situations arising created many delightful comic scenes which were ably presented by the members of the company.

At the close of the production the five ladies of the cast each received a bouquet, kindly given by the Board of Directors and presented by their male opposite numbers.

It is hoped to stage a further play in the early spring of 1953 and the society wishes to thank all those people who have helped in any way and who came to see the shows presented this year. At the same time it is hoped that future productions will attract more support.

New male acting members are urgently required and would be given a welcome at rehearsals on Thursday evenings in the Apprentice Schoolroom. Information regarding the society can be obtained from Miss O'Hara in the McKee Division.

### "HEAVENS ABOVE!"

Head, Wrightson Aluminium Ltd., have recently received an order from a Sheffield Consulting Firm for the design, fabrication and erection of a 120-ft. Aluminium Alloy RADIO MAST. The Mast will form part of a "RADIO TELESCOPE" and will be sited some 20 miles from Manchester at the JODRELL BANK EXPERIMENTAL STATION. There, a team of research workers, led by Dr. Lovell, is developing a new science called RADIO ASTRONOMY to explore the heavens.

For centuries, mortals have gazed at the stars in the night sky. The more imaginative of our ancestors gave names to the clusters of stars which formed shapes like animals, etc., and so we have the "Great Bear," "The Plough," etc. The Arabian Astronomers, called a certain star the "Demon Star," because every three days it has a naughty twinkle in its eye! However, only a few thousand stars and other celestial bodies are visible to the naked eye.

About 300 years ago, Galileo invented the optical telescope and this instrument has enabled the Astronomers to gain a great deal of knowledge about the heavenly bodies. Now, the Astronomer has a further aid, the

RADIO TELESCOPE. The Astronomer, using the RADIO TELESCOPE is able to observe meteors in daylight and under all conditions of cloud—the optical telescope would only be able to study meteors under good visual conditions. Meteors have the appearance of rapidly moving stars which flare into brilliance for a second and then disappear.

The origin of these meteors is a mystery, but they are known to consist of small pieces of stone and iron, which approach the earth from outer space at very high speeds and are burnt up by friction when they enter the upper atmosphere of the earth.

The new science of RADIO ASTRONOMY uses the techniques of Radio and Radar. The basic discoveries in this science were made nearly 20 years ago, but thanks to the great strides made in Radio and Radar during the Second World War, the apparatus for RADIO ASTRONOMY has vastly improved.

RADIO ASTRONOMY has revealed that radio waves are being emitted from the depths of outer space and this intriguing fact has opened up a new avenue for the Astronomers to explore.

Head, Wrightson Aluminium Ltd., is proud to play its part in the development of Radio Astronomy.

Nights in are just as important as nights out, indeed, the former add endless zest to the matter. Yet so few of us will pull up the drawbridge at sunset! We are like the woman Arnold Bennett speaks of — alive only in public.

Our days and our nights are spent in being in public, or in preparing to be in public, or in recovering from the effects of being in public, or in recovering from the effects of being in public. Thoreau points out in one of his lightning flashes that "society is commonly too cheap." We meet at very short intervals, not having had time to acquire any new value for each other.

He is a happy man who has simplified his tastes to the point where a good book and a fire and a quiet evening are for him, not a chore or a sign of increasing age, but a preference and badge of wisdom and distinction.

### DARTS.

The final and semi-final of the Departmental Darts Competition will take place on Friday, 19th December, 1952, at the Recreation Hall, Teesdale Park. Dart players should make a note of this date as there should be some keen matches.

**APHORISMS.**

The man who is a pessimist before 48 knows too much, if he is an optimist after it, he knows too little.

Good breeding consists in concealing how much we think of ourselves and how little we think of the other person.

There are several good protections against temptation—but the surest of these is cowardice.

Every man is an omnibus in which his ancestors ride.  
(Oliver Wendell Holmes).

A famous British Prime Minister once said that the most important duty of a civil servant was to say to his political chief at the beginning of each new day, "Sir, while you keep one eye on the stars, please keep the other on the step!" Now the trouble about politics is that the Right says, "Blow the stars!" and the left says, "Curse the step!"

W. J. Brown, M.P.

The man who has not anything to boast of but his illustrious ancestors is like a potato—the only good belonging to him is underground.

Sir Thomas Overbury.

A wife isn't at all interested in what her husband is saying unless he's talking to another woman.

Bruce Patterson.

"As you have made your bed, so you must lie on it" is simply a lie. If I have made my bed uncomfortable, please God, I will make it again."

G. K. Chesterton.

"A fox sleeps, but counts hens in his dreams."

Russian Proverb.

**Seasonable Sayings.**

"And when I saw what his present was, I didn't know whether to slap his face or throw my arms round his neck."

"Ma, after I have jumped up and down a bit, can I have another mince pie."

"Well, if we get any more Christmas cards, we shall really need a grand piano."

"Nice of you to wish me a prosperous New Year, old man—but I simply couldn't afford it."

**TEES-SIDE T.V. AND RADIO**

**HOME CONSTRUCTORS' CLUB.**

A club has been formed with its H.Q. in Stockton with the above title. Its object is to help home constructors with their problems by making available to club members, test equipment which they may not be able to afford themselves, to give advice on technical matters and the latest news and views in the T.V., Radio, Radiogram, Tape recorders, etc., field. Any of our employees who are interested should get in touch with Mr. W. Crossen, Bridge Yard—a committee member—who will give them further details.

**STAFF GUILD.**

The newly formed Staff Guild held its first official function on Friday, 7th November, when the President, Mr. Frank Marriott, was joined by the members and guests at a Dinner Party in the Teesdale Canteen Main Hall.

Mr. Miles, who was to reply to the Toast "The Company," was indisposed but a letter from him was read by Mr. R. N. Allison, the Company's Secretary, which included good wishes for the future success of the Guild

After suitable responses, Mr. Peter Wrightson proposed a toast to the Guild which gave the members much food for thought by the reference to the Dictionary definition of the word "guild."

A very happy atmosphere prevailed throughout the evening and members from the various works had an opportunity of getting to know each other. Entertainment was provided by a Concert Party arranged by Mr. W. G. Bartaby.

The Staff Guild is having its first annual dance on Friday, 23rd January, 1953.

**OTHER DATES.**

Friday, 19th December—Accounts Department Party.

Tuesday, 23rd December—Christmas Carnival Dance for weekly dancers.

Monday, 29th December—Steel Castings Division Christmas Party.

Friday, 23rd January, 1953—Staff Guild Dance

Friday, 6th February, 1953—The Head Wrightson Machine Co's Dance.

The above will all be held in the Teesdale Hall.

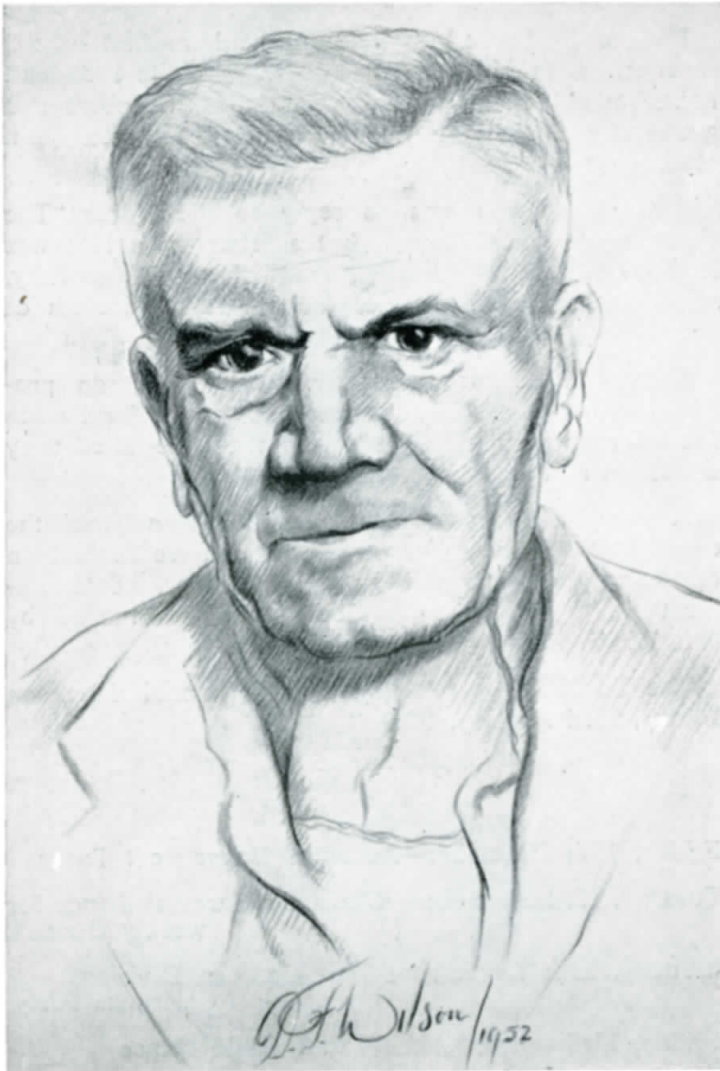
THE ANNUAL STAFF DANCE will be held in the Palais de Danse, Stockton-on-Tees on Tuesday, 30th December, 1952.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.**

We are pleased to learn that Mr. Frank Shepherd, our Personnel Manager, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for the North Riding of Yorkshire.

Mr. Shepherd hopes that he will never see any members from the Company at the other side of the Bench but will be pleased to help any of our employees if no more than by the signing of official documents.





### H.W. PERSONALITIES.

MR. JOHN LYALL—CRANE DRIVER, BRIDGE YARD.

When one meets Mr. Lyall it is difficult to realise that he was born as long ago as 1881 and has worked for the Company for 57 years.

He started work with the riveters as a pincher but after a while became a loco' driver. Then he became a crane driver. Mr. Lyall drove the first electric crane the Company installed and remembers when the first electric light (1 lamp) which was lit by power generated by our own machine, was to be seen in the yard. People came from many of the surrounding districts to see it. Mr. Lyall says he spent many years on the Template Shop Crane and he was helped by two old friends, Mr. J. Myers and Mr. Joe Shepherd who are still with us.

In 1914 Mr. Lyall joined up and got, as he says, a free passage to France, where he served until 1919. He was in the heaviest of the fighting, was wounded at Paschendaele in 1915 and finished up as Company Sergeant Major in the well-known local regiment—"The Green Howards." For his services he was awarded the Military Medal and Bar and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Mr. Lyall enjoys the best of health and says that he can offer no suggestion why—he says it is maybe because he never married. He lives alone in Thornaby and looks after his own house and also has an allotment. Once he toyed with the idea of retiring but decided that he wouldn't be able to fill in his time. We hope he will continue to enjoy the same good health and that he will be amongst us on the job for many years to come.

### MR. N. C. LAKE—

General Manager and Director, The Head Wrightson Machine Company.

President, Cleveland Institution of Engineers.

NORMAN C. LAKE was born at Hanley, North Staffordshire, in 1905, and was educated at Newcastle-under-Lyme and Longton and at the North Staffordshire Technical College, Stoke-on-Trent.

He served his apprenticeship in the machine and fitting shops and drawing office of The Shelton Iron, Steel and Coal Company, Limited, and early in 1928 he joined Daniel Adamson and Company, Limited, Dukinfield, as a junior draughtsman.

In 1936 Mr. Lake was appointed Manager of our Steelworks Plant Department which in 1945 acquired Messrs. Richardson & Westgarths' old works in Commercial Street Middlesbrough, which was modernized and equipped with new machine tools for the production of rolling mill equipment. When this Department became Head, Wrightson Machine Co., Ltd., in 1946, Mr. Lake was appointed Director and General Manager. During his connection with our organisation, he has been responsible for many very large home and export contracts for equipment for the production of steel and non-ferrous metals.

Mr. Lake was for many years a member of the Rolling-Mill Research Sub-Committee of the Iron and Steel Industrial Research Council, as representative of the Steel Works Plant Association, of which he is Chairman. He recently became a member of the Drawing Committee of the British Iron and Steel Research Association. He became a member of the Cleveland Institution of Engineers in 1936, a member of the Council in 1945, and is President for the current session. He was elected a Member of the Iron and Steel Institute in 1936, and has taken a keen interest in the Iron and Steel Engineers' Group since its inception.

