

TRIP THROUGH STEEL MINES OF BIRMINGHAM

Zebulon Lady Talks Interestingly About Iron Making

The following article has been handed The Record by Mrs. J. D. Davis, who has been visiting her son in Birmingham, Ala. The article tells how the iron is made in the furnaces and is of interest to those who have never seen the manner in which iron is made. We gladly give space to the article for the benefit of our many readers. The article follows:

Visible from the veranda of my son's home in Birmingham, Ala., lighting the night sky, is the glow of the distant blast furnaces and steel mills which mark the Birmingham District as one of the greatest iron and steel producing centers in the world. This continual glow, heightened occasionally by the blaze of a furnace as a fresh charge is added, or by the dumping of a ladle of white hot slag to run down the mountainous sides of the slag pile in a molten stream, made me more than willing to accept the suggestion that I visit the mills and see something of how iron and steel are made.

The first trip, to the blast furnaces was made at night. Here in enormous furnaces, the iron ore, together with limestone to absorb the impurities from the ore, is melted down, the process of combustion being supported by coke. Incidentally, all three of the materials necessary to make iron, the iron ore, coal from which the coke is made, and limestone, are mined within a few miles of each other in the Birmingham District.

As the ore is melted, the impurities, together with the molten limestone and the residue from the burned coke, being lighter than iron, rises to the top of the molten mass, and is drained off into locomotive drawn buckets or ladles, and is dumped out at a convenient spot. This product known as slag, was originally wasted, but is now after cooling and hardening, broken up and used as a base for making concrete, brick, tile, and other products. The heavier iron collects at the bottom of the furnace and is either drawn off into moulds made in a plat of sand, becoming "pig iron," or is taken off into ladles and without being cooled is converted into steel.

On another occasion a trip was made through the steel mills. Here the molten iron from the blast furnaces is passed successively through the mixers, the converters, and the open hearth furnaces, where the impurities of the iron are burned out, and following this certain becomes steel.

The molten steel, at a temperature of 3,000 degrees, is poured from the hearth furnaces into ladles, which are lifted by travelling cranes and the steel poured into ingot moulds. These ingots are then allowed to cool to the point where the shrinkage is sufficient to allow the moulds to be lifted off. The ingots are then placed in what are known as soaking pits, and by means of gas flames are reheated to a proper temperature for rolling. From the soaking pits the ingots are taken to the rolling mills. Here, passing back and forth through the enormous water cooled rolls of the bloom mill, the 110 ton ingot is gradually rolled out into a bloom, some forty feet in length, and six or eight inches square. Still hot the bloom is cut into rail lengths by hydraulic shears, and passed to the rail mill. Here the rolling process is repeated and the rail takes shape, the size of the rail depending upon the roll used. The rails are then cut to length and straightened, and then for the first time since the ore was melted are allowed to cool. After cooling the coupling holes are bored and the rails are loaded by means of an electromagnetic crane for shipment to the railroads.

To one who has not seen steel in the making, this simple description of the process of making rails, one of the many products of the steel mills, cannot convey an adequate idea of the mills. This could only be conveyed by seeing the blazing converter, spouting a flame twenty to thirty feet high carrying sparks of molten steel, which, however, cool before they fall and are swept up and reused, by seeing the molten steel, white in the intensity of its heat, pour from the tilted open hearth furnaces in a mighty cataract, to see the enormous ingots drawn from the soaking pits by powerful travelling cranes, and carried along rollers to the hungry jaws of the rolling mill, where with a crash of steel on steel, a flying of sparks

and a hissing of steam as a hose plays water on the mighty rolls, the rail-making process begins. Standing near the rolling mills as the hot steel passes through, the heat is intense, bearable in fact to one unaccustomed to it for only a few moments. Amid all this is the clang, and clatter, and crash of the rolls and their driving machinery forming a babel of sounds above which can be heard only the steam whistle used for signally, the efficiency of which was demonstrated to us since a signal had to be given as we passed within a few feet of it. Conversation could be carried on only by shouting and then with difficulty; but out of this seeming confusion of heat and noise and blinding light was coming a steady stream of steel rails which were just as steadily being shipped to the railroads to be placed in their tracks to carry the commerce of the world.

Co-ops. Make Another Payment

A special from Raleigh, June 30, says: Distribution of another payment, though comparatively a small one, through co-operative receiving joints in Eastern North Carolina from July 1 until July 7, added to the checks which have recently been distributed in the South Carolina belt and those to be distributed shortly in Virginia, will run the money end of the Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Association's first quarterly settlement above a million dollars.

More than half a million was distributed in the South Carolina belt several days ago and with the checks went to each member a bill, detailed statement showing what grades of tobacco had been marketed and, for what they were sold by the association for him. Cordial approval of growers throughout the South Carolina belt has been given to the new quarterly statement method of payment.

While the total in Eastern North Carolina is not so large as the South Carolina total, it is made upon the same new basis of settlement ordered by the association directors. Checks going into Eastern Carolina are for only a few grades which have been sold. They cover, in the main, the lower grades of scrap, including B1, B7, B8, B9, B10, B11, B Scrap, D1, D2, D9, D10, D Scrap, E6, E7, F6, F7, and H7.

Eastern Carolina growers may receive these checks, with statements, at their receiving points from July 1 to July 7, but after the latter date it will be necessary for them to send their participation receipts to Richmond.

The steady flow of co-operative checks, providing cash money in lean seasons as well as in the fat ones, is attracting more new contracts than anything else, according to co-opera-

For Ice Boxes and Porch Swings, see Massey Bros.

tive workers in the South Carolina belt.

The quarterly statement system is meeting with distinct approval for it furnishes the grower an opportunity, at all times, to take a satisfactory inventory of his assets to check against his bills payable or liabilities. After the Eastern Carolina distribution, which began last Wednesday, checks and quarterly statements will be distributed in the old belt of Virginia and North Carolina covering payment on all grades sold up to May 31.

S. D. FRISSELL.

ALLOW WEEK'S GRACE ON AUTO LICENSE TAGS

A week of grace within which to secure State automobile licenses was Tuesday announced by Sprague Silver, acting deputy commissioner of revenue in charge of the Automobile License Bureau. The 1924-25 tags expired Tuesday.

The granting of the additional time was caused by the tremendous rush of last minute license buyers who threatened to swamp the bureau here and its branches through the State.

Commissioner of Revenue R. A. Doughton expects the number of licenses issued to be around 520,000.

Income Taxes In State Drops Over \$700,000

Income tax collections for the fiscal year ending Tuesday show a decrease of \$730,925.86 over corresponding collections for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924, it has been announced by Commissioner of Revenue R. A. Doughton.

Figures covering all collections are not yet available, but Commissioner Doughton stated that the decrease in income taxes would be largely offset by an increase in inheritance taxes.

For the year ending June 30, 1924, income tax collections amounted to \$4,481,378.25, while collection this year were \$3,750,452.39. Taxes on individual incomes increased from \$975,000 to \$977,000 and those on foreign corporations increased from \$1,565,000 to \$1,607,000, but these increases were more than offset by the decrease in taxes on domestic corporations from \$1,940,000 to \$1,165,000, the slump in the cotton mill business accounting for the big difference.

For Screen Wire, Screen Doors and Screen Windows, see Massey Bros.

Even if you can tell a woman's age it is best not to.

Shingles and Laths, Windows and Doors, at Massey Bros.

WITNESS WANTS NEEDLEMAN CONVICTED

(Continued from page 1) made against her and yet, in the face of that the solicitor announced that due to lack of evidence, the State advocated that the indictment against Needleman be quashed. She is having a statement prepared which will be ready in a few days and which will set forth all of the details in connection with the attack against her.

"I've heard a lot of people say that they were surprised that the case against Needleman had been dropped. I also have heard it stated that various Jews in Kinston and other towns contributed to a fund of seven thousand dollars, which was used to get Needleman out of his trouble without bringing him to trial. I know enough about the case to know that if he is brought into court he is bound to be convicted on the evidence submitted."

For Kerogas Oil Stoves and Allen Ranges, see Massey Bros.

The Colored People's Column

CELEBRATED BIRTHDAY

The Juvenile Class No. 391 celebrated Mrs. J. A. Gresham's birthday by giving her a party. They served chicken sandwiches, white potatoe salad, ice cream and cake. The cake was decorated with white and yellow. The secretary, who is Miss Louise Green, was not present, so Miss Annie May Pretty acted in her place, and Master E. C. Simmons, of Norfolk, Va., gave a lecture to the club.

It was a grand time and the club members all enjoyed it.

The club will meet again next Tuesday evening. Master Robert Baten is the president, who is to invite the children to come.

Miss Louise Green is secretary. For further information write Mrs. J. A. Gresham.

The man who is right is never left. One good spurn deserves another.

Distance lends enchantment to many a summer resort.

Kiln dried Flooring and Ceiling. Massey Bros.

Midsummer Styles are Now Here

We are receiving daily new styles in LADIES and MEN'S DRESS SHOES, and PRICES that will PLEASE YOU.

Our Motto Is:

To save you money on every pair or return Shoes and money will be refunded.

Wake Shoe Store

127-129 E. Martin Street

Raleigh, N. C.

N. G. BERRY, Manager.

B A N G ! GOES PRICES

EVERY EFFORT BEING PUT FORTH TO MAKE THE LAST FEW DAYS OF

Shamburger-Pippin Co.'s BIG SALE

The Biggest Yet

A FEW OF THE MANY SPECIALS WE HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU:

RADMOOR
Chiffon Hose, Beautiful assortment of colors, a real \$1.29 \$1.75 value

SLIPPERS
White Buck Slippers at a most unbelievable price \$1.95

VOILES
Normandy Voiles. The Season's most popular patterns to 41½¢ select from

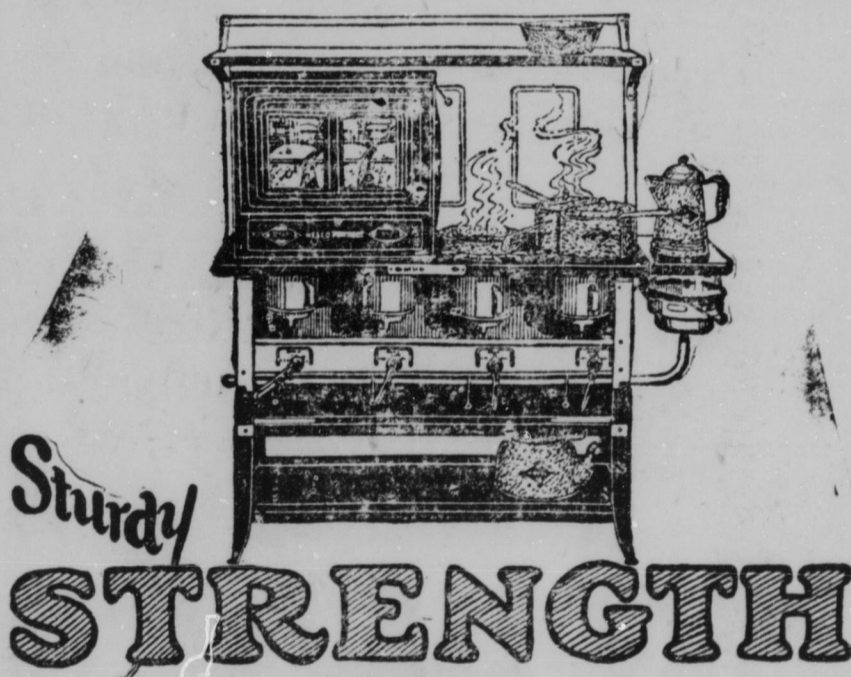
TOWELS
Nice big Turkish Towels, an item you can't have too many of 19¢

SCRIM
Several pretty Curtain Scrim Patterns, going as cheap as 9¢

HOSE
Best Silk Hose. Perfect shape, \$2.50 value, on sale for only \$1.69

CONTESTANT NOTE

Our Popularity Contest closes Saturday night promptly at 9:30 and we ask that all contestants be on hand at that time, as the winners must be present to secure their prizes.



Sturdy STRENGTH

BESIDES
Unusual beauty is embodied in the straight-line design of the economical

NESCO OIL COOK STOVE

Its strong frame, broad shelves, solid legs, and handsome colors makes your kitchen beautiful and your work joyous. It is easy to cook with, easy to clean. The high clean blue flame never soots up the utensils. Flame stays set. No wick cutting.

Come in for Demonstration

We have them in 3, 4 and 5 Burners at

THE RIGHT PRICE

"The House of Better Values"

Zebulon Supply Co.