

NORTH BRITISH NEWS

The House Organ of
THE NORTH BRITISH RUBBER CO. LTD.

Affiliated to UNITED STATES RUBBER COMPANY



VOL. X, No. 8. DECEMBER 1957

FESTIVE SEASON HOLIDAYS

CASTLE MILLS

Factory — JANUARY 1, 2, 3.
Staff — DECEMBER 25,
JANUARY 1, 2.

HEATHHALL

Factory and Staff — JANUARY 1, 2, 3.

Merry Xmas and Happy New Year

FOUNDATIONS OF NEW HOSE FACTORY STARTED

Lord Provost of Edinburgh officiates at Ceremony

ON 9th December another milestone was reached in the Company's £3 million modernisation plan. Edinburgh's Lord Provost, Ian A. Johnson-Gilbert was entertained to lunch by the Directors and received progress of the Company's development plan. Later he "broke the ground" on the 5-acre site at the western end of Castle Mills, now almost clear and on which foundation work for new factory buildings is starting.

Foster M. Stewart, Managing Director, gave details at a Press conference. "During the past twelve months 85 buildings have been demolished," said Mr. Stewart. "Production units previously located in the Vulcanite area have been accommodated in the Centre factory block. This moving was accomplished smoothly and without loss of productive efficiency. Now everything is ready for the foundation of a new factory block. Next week deliveries of steel will commence in accordance with a recent contract given to Redpath Brown & Company, Edinburgh. Both the demolition and construction contracts are in the hands of another Edinburgh firm, Wm. Arnott McLeod & Co. Ltd.

"The modern single-storey factory block which will emerge on this 5-acre site will be part of the Company's Industrial Products Division and will be devoted largely to the production of various types of oil hose. This is a big export item, and oil hose manufactured in Edinburgh is in service in the oilfields of the World. In addition there will be a range of advanced high-pressure hose for use in the British market.

"The Tyre Division," Mr. Stewart added, "since January of this year capacity has been doubled, and by the early part of next year output will be three times that of a year ago. During all this re-organisation our numbers employed within Castle Mills have increased by 20 per cent.

"Progress made in 1957 has been greater than was forecast, and in some products, such as tyres, 1961 objectives have already been accomplished. As a result we are now



After Lord Provost Ian A. Johnson-Gilbert had broken the soil, our Project Engineer, J. M. Livermore, "took over". Others in the group, left to right, are ex-Directors Hugh Rose and J. L. Cornfoot, D. F. Vallis, General Mechanicals Factory Manager, Directors Alexander Johnston, Sir William Wallace, C.B.E., LL.D., T. Clayton, Foster M. Stewart, E. T. Bray, hidden from view. In the background can be seen the last stages of the demolition of the Laboratory Buildings.

planning for a further extension of our original £3 million modernisation programme."

What It Means to Edinburgh

The Lord Provost emphasised that our Company had been an integral part of the life of the city for over a century and gave employment to many people from the surrounding area as well as the outlying districts. He added, "I was more than delighted when, as chairman of the planning committee, I had before me plans for the future development of this important industry". Speaking of the interest United States concerns were taking in Scottish industry, the Lord Provost referred to the happy relationship which existed between the two countries today. "The new plans being put into effect at Castle Mills would be of great importance to Edinburgh's industrial development."



STOP PRESS

General Mechanicals Div. Dinner

This year's dinner of the *General Mechanicals Division* was held in the New Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 7th December. Following practice, the first item of the evening was the installation of chairman. This time the choice fell on G. W. Simmonds, who, with good humour, handled a full evening's programme most efficiently. In his introductory remarks he expressed the wish that this evening would be remembered affectionately as "the night George Simmonds sat in the chair". His success ensured that he will rank with the best.

A gesture that met with spontaneous enthusiasm was the presence of three "retireds"—Charlie Blyth (who never missed a function while at Castle Mills), Alfred Guest and Andrew Lawson.

Our coverage of this function is limited in this issue because of publication date, and so the pictorial record of a fine evening must be delayed until next month. Photographs can perhaps best record such an entertaining evening, the success of which was a personal triumph for Tom Murray. His versatility has been the basis of many successful evenings in the past. This latest contribution was really outstanding.

Speeches were kept to the minimum. *Mechanicals* dinners are looked upon more as parties where good humour is prevalent from start to finish. However, mention should be made in this interim report of the short but excellent discourses from D. F. Vallis, *Mechanicals* Factory Manager, and Foster M. Stewart, Managing Director.

Mr. Vallis highlighted the performance of the Division in the past year—the steady reduction in factory penalties, higher sales, the work of the Development group, the

(Continued on back page.)

A "long shot" over the whole area, where steel, bricks and mortar will be in evidence before long. The buildings to the left and right are in the final stages of demolition.

