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11 DEC 1958

BELTING DEPT.



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

Affiliated to UNITED STATES RUBBER COMPANY



T. Johnstone (left) with fellow workers, when Mr. Lalley presented awards for very worthwhile suggestions.

“I am amazed to see the vast changes”

Sir Thomas Williamson, Secy., N.U.G.M.W., visits Castle Mills

LAST month Sir Thomas Williamson, C.B.E., J.P., General Secretary of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, made a 24-hour journey to Scotland for the express purpose of visiting us at Castle Mills.

Sir Thomas, who was first Secretary of the Joint Industrial Council for the Rubber Industry, arrived in Edinburgh on the evening of Monday, 17th November. Shortly after his arrival he held an informal meeting with our Shop Stewards. On the following morning, accompanied by W. McGinniss, Scottish District Secretary of the N.U.G.M.W., and W. B. Stewart, Scottish Organiser, Sir Thomas was received at Castle Mills by our Managing Director, Foster M. Stewart. Along with F. A. Yagerman, Tyre Factory Manager; D. F. Vallis, General Mechanical Factory Manager; D. M. McDonald, Services Manager; R. A. Cryer, Industrial Relations Manager, and Union representative J. Garland, they toured production departments and viewed the progress of the Company's modernisation programme, started in 1956. During the tour of departments Sir Thomas spoke to many of the operatives on the job, some of whom have three generations of rubber experience behind them.

In a statement issued before returning to London, Sir Thomas Williamson said it was some years since he had visited North British Rubber, and he had been happy to see at first hand the changes now going on.

“As a member of the Anglo-American Productivity Council, 1948-52, and an ex-Chairman of the British Productivity

Council, I am always anxious to see productivity of the highest order, which will enable a manufacturer to compete effectively both at home and abroad,” said Sir Thomas. “Lower costs and good quality are paramount today.

Heartened by New Products

“I am amazed, and indeed very much heartened, to see the vast changes at Castle Mills, assuring employment in Edinburgh and Scotland where it is most needed. As a union we welcome this co-operation with management in these industrial improvements which are absolutely necessary for ultimate success. As I see it these modernisation plans have every possibility of expanding employment in the years ahead. I see changes here involving modern equipment and new productivity which must inevitably enable North British Rubber to operate to the maximum efficiency and with great hopes of expansion.

“What is particularly heartening is the enterprise of The North British Rubber Company in launching new products in both rubber and plastics. It is that type of enterprise that spells success in the years ahead.”

NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

Factory holidays will be as follows:—

CASTLE HILLS — Jan. 1, 2, 3

HEATHHALL — Jan. 1, 2, 5

Suggestion Award of £27, 12s. plus Special Award of £25

F. E. LALLEY, Factory Manager, made two presentations to T. Johnstone, Millroom Division, Heathhall, for his suggestion to modify the wooden cores and straps on which conveyor belting is wound. The first was £17, 12s., making a total paid to date of £27, 12s. A final payment has yet to be made.

This suggestion also qualified for the special award of £25 for the best suggestion received during Heathhall Suggestions Campaign.

Here is another example of an employee taking an intelligent interest in his job and successfully suggesting a cost savings. Management welcome any suggestions which may either increase production, improve quality, reduce costs, or promote greater safety.

“SUGGEST A WAY—TODAY”

Other Heathhall Awards

£1.—R. J. Patterson, Rubber Development (1-inch Marking Block for Rubber dumb-bells).

Letters of Merit.—T. Burnie, Moulding (Save Stencil Boards by using Material Control Mixing Tickets); E. M'Vinnie, Quality Control (Improve Conductivity on P.V.C. Spread Covers); A. Tremble, Packing (Spray P.V.C. Boots in one operation).

Letters of Thanks.—H. Saville, Moulding (Fix Two Hard Brushes across the floor so that the band side cover ply can run over the top and remove all dust); A. Stokes, Moulding (Wooden Cores for Slitting Belts).

Sir Thomas was particularly impressed with the production of Royalite. Here he is (second from right) watching Betty Donoughue, Eve Clark and Mrs. Mitchell handling a former. Others in the photograph (left to right) are: W. McGinniss, Scottish District Secretary, N.U.G.M.W.; Jack Garland, Union representative; W. B. Stewart, Scottish Organiser; D. F. Vallis, Mechanicals Factory Manager. Our right-hand photograph shows the Union chief with John Berry, at the Bag-o-Matic Presses in Tyre Curing.

