

NORTH BRITISH NEWS

**The House Organ of
THE NORTH BRITISH RUBBER CO. LTD.**
Affiliated to UNITED STATES RUBBER COMPANY

Castle Mills awarded Industry Safety Certificate

AN IDEA WHICH LED TO GREATER CLEANLINESS ELIMINATION OF CHALK IN EXTRUDING OPERATION

THE extruding of rubber sections of intricate design without the use of french chalk has occupied the Tubing Room personnel and supervision for many years. The use of chalk or other dusting media produces a condition which is neither pleasant for the operatives to work in nor clean, inasmuch as all adjoining areas are ultimately contaminated.

To overcome this condition, the supervision concerned approached the problem from a new angle. With the help of Technical Control, initial plans of attack were made. It was realised that a means of eliminating sticking together of the walls of the more intricate extrusions must be found. To dispense with chalk or dust meant the use of a suitable liquid; secondly, the use of such liquid meant that the die must be able to extrude whilst under the surface of the liquid; and, thirdly, such anti-tack liquor must not interfere with the making of a satisfactory rubber-to-rubber join in the subsequent various making-up operations.

Foreman D. Forbes realised that the extruding under liquid was the first part of the problem to be resolved, and a suitable tank with its accompanying gasket to fit against the front of the machine and round the nozzle and die was made. Then a means of emptying the liquid from the tank as required and re-filling was investigated.

Initial trials showed that there was every possibility of the plan proving successful, but a lot of refinement was necessary, and, with the help of Technical Control and our Drawing Office, the equipment was gradually improved upon until it reached its present stage, which is both convenient to use and easy to empty and re-charge.

Extremely complex sections are now being run using this equipment.

The credit for the successful conclusion of this project must be given almost completely to Foreman D. Forbes, though, of course, both Technical Control and our

Engineers contributed with valuable suggestions. The Department now bears no resemblance to its original appearance. Floor, windows and machines have a much cleaner appearance and have lost the continuous layer of dust with which the Tubing Department was previously associated. In addition, operatives are working in much cleaner conditions, and altogether it is a better working area and the product therefrom very much better than previously.

Foreman Forbes is of a very mechanical turn of mind and has been responsible for several other modifications to plant and equipment in the department. This award should be a further stimulus to everyone. The smallest idea may be



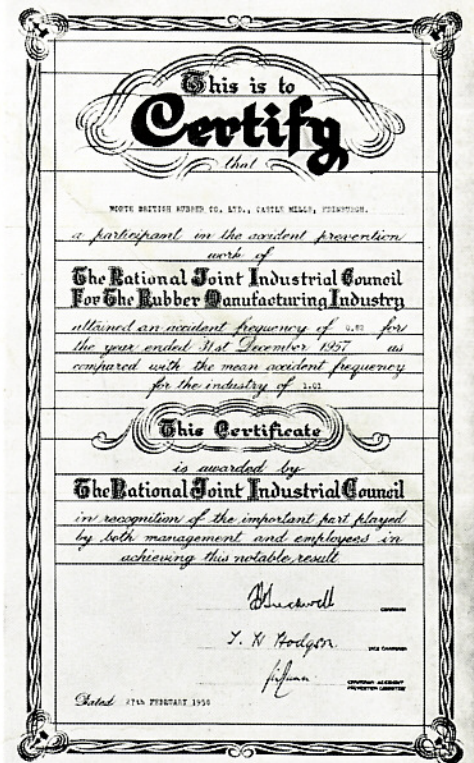
Here is Foreman D. Forbes receiving a special award of £15 from J. Graham, General Production Manager. Others from left are R. A. Cryer, Industrial Relations Manager; D. F. Vallis, Mechanicals Factory Manager; P. H. Lee, Chairman, Suggestions and Awards Committee; I. D. K. Cameron, Technical Control; B. Brodie, Planning Manager; A. Kay, Superintendent, Extrusions.

developed into a major project to the benefit of both employee and management.

SAFETY is everyone's business

FOR the first time Castle Mills has been granted a Certificate by the National Joint Industrial Council for the Rubber Industry, because we have been successful in keeping our accident rate in 1957 below a frequency of 1.0. Our figure was .82. Everyone concerned must be congratulated on this commendable effort.

Unfortunately, the first quarter of 1958 has marked a great deterioration on last year's performance. This has resulted in the present intensification of our safety



This is a reproduction of the handsome and colourful certificate issued by the Rubber Manufacturing Industry.

drive. It cannot be repeated too often that safety is a constant, and it should not be necessary to periodically lay emphasis on this fact. It is part and parcel of everyone's job to see that work is always carried out in a safe manner.

"ACCIDENTS DO NOT HAPPEN,
THEY ARE CAUSED."

87 per cent. of all accidents in industry involve some unsafe act, of which 78 per cent. have some mechanical or material cause.

The largest single item in industrial accidents is the unnecessary exposure of limbs. Unsafe use of tools, non-use of safety devices, working with faulty equipment, unsafe loading or arrangement, operating at unsafe speeds, working on moving equipment, improper starting or stopping, are some other causes of accidents.

The human side of the accident is most important. Apart from the suffering and heartaches caused there is financial loss as well. A part of the mental attitude of a person towards accidents is due to ignorance, but most are caused by carelessness. We must constantly see to it that all employees are given a liberal safety education. The Foreman plays a major roll in maintaining safety in his department, but he needs and very often gets, co-operation from everyone else involved.

While we have started badly in 1958, let us get down to it and endeavour to make this year not only better than 1957, but the best for all time. A frequency of 1 is commendable as a target, but the constant aim should be a frequency of NIL.