

Vic Wallis interviewed on Hose by B.B.C. for Scottish Programme

It isn't often many of us in Scotland get the chance to listen in to "Wednesday Call", a B.B.C. sound programme at 8.15 a.m. every Wednesday. But if perchance you did on 13th June, you doubtless picked up your ears when you heard the words:

"Well, now, Hose. Does your mind fit happily to this sheering of the well-turned nylon-covered leg; or is it just ancient jokes about firemen?"

That was the start of a three-minute interview between B.B.C. man, George Robb, and our Industrial Products General Sales Manager, V. M. Wallis. "Wednesday Call" covers a wide range of subjects and generally includes something industrial. The B.B.C. library had duly noted that at Castle Mills was the most modern Hose factory in Europe and this was the opportunity to talk Hose. And here is the remainder of the interview done "off the cuff" at Castle Mills.

George Robb visited the Scottish hose-making firm in the East when he met V. M. Wallis, who put him in the picture.

WALLIS: Hose is a very interesting product, and

it is so much a part of modern living that it might be an idea to recount some of the useful things that hose carries. One can think particularly of the traditional Scottish beverages of beer and whisky to say nothing of milk, grain, sand, water and air.

ROBB: Your products are marketed all over the world?

WALLIS: Indeed they are, particularly Oil Hose which is very famous in many parts of the world.

ROBB: The experience gained by your company must be extensive?

WALLIS: It is very extensive indeed and it is built upon the skill of our people backed by research.

ROBB: I have just been told that you use a certain amount of synthetic rubber. Why is this?

WALLIS: Synthetic rubber is used because for oil resistance natural rubber is particularly unsuitable. The interesting thing here is that we get our synthetic rubber from oil by breaking it down into its constituent parts and the synthetic rubber obtained in turn is then used to carry oil.

ROBB: You were telling me about Floating Hose. Can you elaborate on that?

WALLIS: The Floating Hose, or Float and Sunk Hose, as we call it, is a

very interesting development which enables oil hoses to be sunk to the bed of a river or the sea and raised when they are needed by the tankers loading or unloading.

ROBB: Why did your Directors decide to set up in Scotland, here in Edinburgh particularly?

WALLIS: The reasons are the same as they were more than one hundred years ago: that we needed the benefit of traditional Scottish skills and craftsmanship.

It's surprising what can be packed into three minutes, just part of the 15-minute "Wednesday Call" on the Scottish Home Service. Mr. Wallis's voice came over clearly with the ease of one knowledgeable in the hose business.