

Safety in Steel

A SMALL iron works acquired in Brownsville, Pennsylvania, in the year 1850 by Benjamin Franklin Jones, when the westward surge of industry had barely passed beyond the Alleghenies, was the origin of the present Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation.

Jones & Laughlin has expanded from that single unit at Brownsville until today it holds fourth place among the steel producers of the United States. Its vast Pittsburgh Works, employing over twelve thousand people, extends along the north and south banks of the Monongahela River for a distance of approximately 3½ miles. The Corporation has two other large manufacturing plants; one is the Otis Works in Cleveland; the other is the J & L Aliquippa Works. In addition, J & L has a wire rope plant in Muncy, Pa., a fabricating plant at McCleesport, Pa. and an Electric-weld tube plant in Oil City, Pa.

During the period between 1850 and 1900, taking advantage of the developments in iron and steel and the natural growth of the Country, the business expanded in the Pittsburgh area until in 1905, it was realized there was no available large acreage in Pittsburgh for the development of additional steel products. Accordingly in that year a large tract of land consisting of several farms and an amusement park

were purchased at Woodlawn (now Aliquippa) on the Ohio River, twenty miles below Pittsburgh.

In December 1909, the first of five blast furnaces was completed in the new steel plant to be known as the Aliquippa Works, named for the Indian queen, who was friendly to the British during the French and Indian Wars. Since the beginning in 1909, three Bessemer converters, and five Open Hearth furnaces have been added to produce the steel used in the various finishing mills in the manufacture of pipe, tin plate, rod and wire products and structural shapes. Three batteries of by-product ovens produce the coke used in the blast furnaces.

This modern Plant employs some ten thousand men and women.

It is interesting to note that the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation was one of the original organizers of what is now known as the National Safety Council and that it was also the first steel Company in the United States to employ the full time services of a safety director, indicating early recognition of a responsibility regarding the safety of its employees.

Supervision at this Plant is charged with the definite responsibility of preventing all occupational injuries and disease hazards to employees and to members of