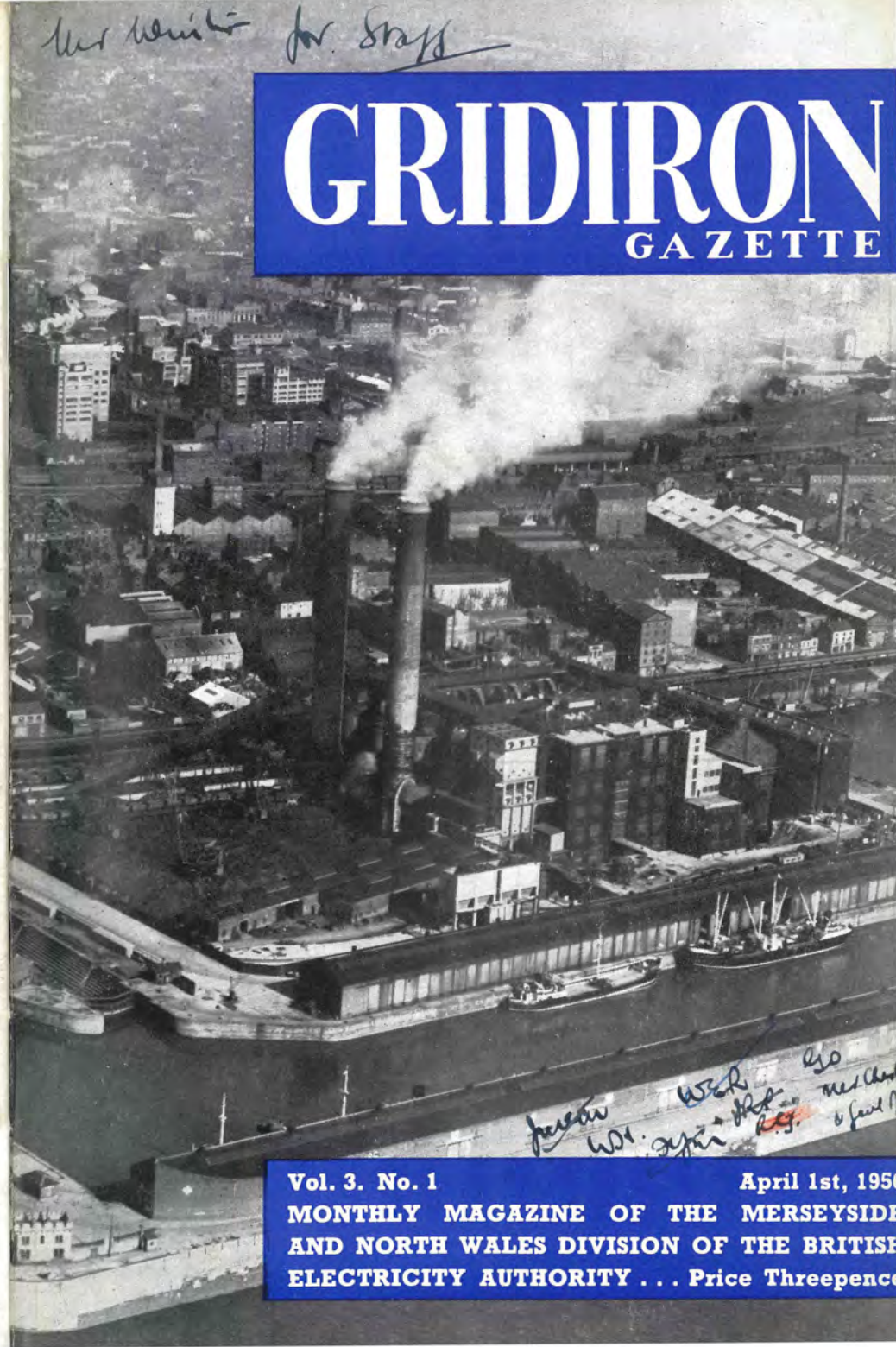


GRIDIRON

GAZETTE



Vol. 3. No. 1

April 1st, 1950

**MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE
AND NORTH WALES DIVISION OF THE BRITISH
ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY . . . Price Threepence**

THE ILLUSTRATIONS ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE ARE TWO GENERAL VIEWS OF THE TURBINE ROOM AT ST. HELENS POWER STATION, WHICH IS BEING REPAINTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COLOUR SCHEME MENTIONED BELOW

PIPING PLAIN, TURBINES COLOURED?

A POWER station plant *must* be painted for protective reasons; and since the psychological effect of pleasant surroundings on those who work there is well appreciated by everyone concerned with welfare in factories, the inclusion of a painting scheme involving the most pleasing and yet practical colours means that at little extra cost there is much to be gained, both from humanitarian and efficiency points of view.

Pleasant and attractive colours provide an incentive to cleanliness in themselves, and when cleared of dust and washed down, give a man something to show for the time he has spent on cleaning, and moreover the completed work is appreciated by everybody.

The effect that painting can have on the safety of operating personnel is not fully appreciated by many people. Although it would be incorrect to classify any portion of a power station as dangerous, there are sections where more than normal precautions should be observed, and it is possible, without incurring additional cost, to pick these sections out by the use of bright distinctive colours and thus draw attention to the effect that extra care is necessary. The safety of personnel and plant is also catered for by adopting a colour code for the identification of pipelines and valves.

With these points in mind the general conclusions as to the colours to be used for the various parts of buildings and items of plant, are as follows:—

Large Surfaces (Cold)—Pale Yellows, White, Pale Greens.

Walls, ceilings, structural work, large plant.

Large Surfaces (Warm)—Aluminium.

(This is the obvious choice for such items as boiler casings, fan casings and ductings, as aluminium paint, having a metallic base, does not readily discolour under heat.)

Dominant Features—Cranes, Moving plant, coal chutes, handrails, and stairways.

(Here the safety aspect is of importance and red would be an obvious first choice; but its low reflection factor and its application to Fire Appliances rule it out; leaving the obvious alternative of orange.)

Other Plant.—Pipelines, pumps, condensers.

(Any of the remaining colours could be used, but where large surfaces are encountered, every endeavour should be made to use pastel shades.)

A complete chart based on British Standard Paint Colours has been drawn up to apply to every item found in a power station. In some of the stations in this Division a certain amount of repainting has been carried out in accordance with this schedule, and although the work is temporarily suspended, sufficient has been completed to obtain proof of the value of the scheme. Light and appearance have been tremendously improved, and the results are appreciated both by operators and visitors.

(Abstracted from an article by Mr. R. L. Batley.)

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VOL. 3

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APRIL 1950

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE MERSEYSIDE AND NORTH WALES DIVISION
OF THE BRITISH ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

BRITISH ELECTRICITY HOUSE

CLARKE GARDENS, WOOLTON, LIVERPOOL

GARSTON 4981-4

DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY

WE sat with the Divisional Controller over a pot of tea and a slice or two of toast. After an unsuccessful attempt on our part to persuade him to write this Editorial for the start of our third volume, we fell to discussing the world situation, and found it generally gloomy: a clash of ideology between East and West which seemed irreconcilable; three new citizens introduced into the world every two seconds for whom no new food supplies exist. "What," we said, "can one do? Should one lead a crusade?—And if so, in which direction? Should one attempt to revive the old faiths, or is a new faith needed?"

"Well," said the Divisional Controller, bringing us down to earth, "There's one thing one *can* do, and that is to do the job that's nearest, and at least ensure that if civilisation breaks down, one's own bit will hold firm."

ELECTRICAL people concerned with the supply side of the industry are naturally bound to "do the job that's nearest"—because if the current fails life stands still until the supply is restored.

But the job that's nearest can be done in two ways. There's the obvious easy way in which one does the minimum necessary in the circumstances, and there's the other way in which one puts into every job that additional spice of interest which takes it out of the realm of a chore and into the field of creative effort.

MANY—if perhaps not all—of the people in this Division must have approached their duties in this second manner during the electricity year just ended. The efficiency of generation has gone up. The construction of new power plant—though none has as yet been commissioned—has been pressed forward with the purposeful energy which bulldozes every obstacle. New organisational methods to streamline the Division's administration have been evolved and set to work. The machinery for Joint Consultation has been inaugurated, so that every worker has his point of view adequately represented.

THESE reminiscent pages, summing up in this issue the work of a year, are but a poor reflection of the efforts of men who have worked all day and all night to make sure that whatever part of the apparatus of generation and transmission the nation has entrusted to their personal care is always ready to fulfil its function. Nevertheless, they do record enough of the Divisional activities in the past year to show that "the job that's nearest" has been done—and done well.

... S.

SECOND YEAR REPORT

It was on 1st April 1948 that the British Electricity Authority and the fourteen Area Boards took over the whole responsibility for Electricity Supply in Great Britain (excluding the North of Scotland). The Merseyside and North Wales Division has, therefore, completed its second year of working.

WHEN we attempt to throw the bright light of criticism on our own performances there is a natural tendency to focus it strongly on our achievements and to turn down the wick, or shall I say reduce the voltage a little when we turn it on our shortcomings.

In reviewing the past year's performance, however, there are certain real achievements which are not matters of opinion but matters of fact, and, when in due course the Authority's Annual Report appears for the year 1949-1950, I think it will be seen that we haven't played a bad game for the National Team.

As the two achievements I have in mind might easily be missed when you read the departmental reports I will mention them here.

The first appears in Mr. Batley's report, where he says that the Divisional Thermal Efficiency increased slightly from 20.57 per cent to 20.72 per cent. This does not seem to be anything to get excited about, but it becomes more significant when we realise that it is an improvement on the already good performance which was obtained during the first year of Nationalisation, and it was obtained without the addition of new generating plant.

The second appears in Mr. Burton's report, where he mentions that the protective gear performance is 93.6 per cent correct operation which is better than the National Average. The Divisional figure for the year 1948-49 was 79.4 per cent. We shan't be satisfied until the 100 per cent figure is reached but it is good to know that we are making progress.

On the personal or human side of our organisation I know that there is and always will be some room for improvement. I think this is inevitable in any organisation which has to tackle the problem of human relationships on a fairly large scale. But although there are times when we are depressingly human, I am not pessimistic about the future. Education and training is now getting well under way, not only for graduate trainees but also for N.J.I.C. workers; conciliation machinery is fully established, canteen and medical services are being improved and encouraging reports are received from those who have so far attended courses at Buxton or the Summer Schools.

The quality of these results may be called matters of opinion rather than matters of fact. In my opinion we have made real progress and if I could hazard another opinion, we are going to make still more.

AR Cooper

DIVISIONAL CONTROLLER

The Divisional Controller and Mr. Batley
discuss SECOND YEAR REPORT.



was generated by the hydro stations while a small but very valuable 0.3 per cent was added by diesel engine generation.

The Area Board have taken approximately 2,938 million kWh; 486 million kWh having been imported from neighbouring Divisions. The Divisional maximum demand sent out for the year was 544,000 kW though it is anticipated that this will be exceeded before 31st March 1950. **This gives the Division a Load Factor* of 51.5 per cent.**

The Area Board maximum demand was 644,000 kW at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, 26th January 1950, but it is calculated that if load shedding had not been applied the Area Board maximum demand at 9.00 a.m. on Monday, 30th January 1950, would have been 720,000 kW.

Plant availability during the year reached a figure of 79 per cent which, I am pleased to say, exceeds the National average; and during the important winter months of December, January and February, the figure of 90 per cent was attained. This figure would have been exceeded except for two unfortunate breakdowns. At Lister Drive No. 3 Station—No. 1 Set (25,000 kW)—was shut down because of the Turbine Rotor shedding blades, and at Wallasey, the two 5 MW Brush-Ljungstrom Turbo Alternators developed blading and alternator rotor faults respectively. The situation here was relieved slightly by making one good machine out of the two faulty units.

It is gratifying to note that the Divisional Overall Thermal Effi-

ciency has improved slightly from 20.57 per cent in 1948-49 to 20.72 per cent in 1949-50. The oil stations' combined overall thermal efficiency was 32.3 per cent, with **Aberystwyth achieving the fine figure of 32.8 per cent.**

The three most efficient steam stations were (once again):—

Clarence Dock H.P.	24.44%
Percival Lane H.P.	21.85%
Warrington H.P.	21.82%

A comprehensive maintenance programme was completed during the summer months. At Clarence Dock alone, major overhauls on three Turbo Alternators were carried out.

The colour scheme introduced during the year has excited considerable interest, and we claim that a distinct improvement is gained by its adoption.

The year has been without anxiety so far as availability of fuel is concerned, and stocks have been maintained somewhat in excess of plan.

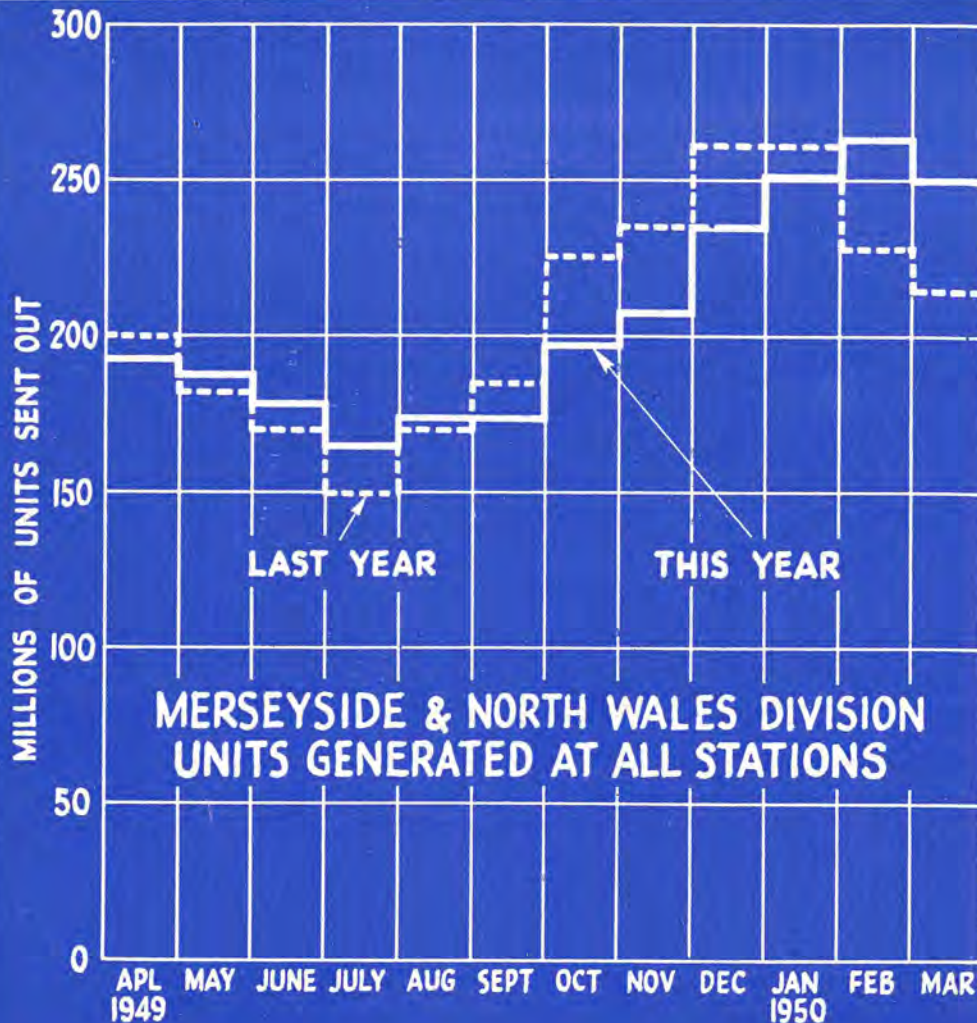
The quality of coal received still leaves much to be desired as the preparation and cleaning at Collieries is lagging behind production. This is mostly due to the expansion of machine mining which demands far more efficient treatment than the more selective manual mining. The better qualities of coal are absorbed by export and specialised home requirements and, not illogically, the B.E.A. is expected to co-operate with its sister organisation the N.C.B. in consuming a large percentage of the low quality fuels remaining.

Price revisions have taken place during the year to relate prices more closely to the heat value of the coal, though more work is required in this direction. A cordial relationship exists between the National Coal Board, the Railway Executive and the Authority.

R. L. BATLEY,
Chief Generation Engineer (Operation).

*Little Man: Excuse me—what's a Load Factor?

Mr. Batley: If all the plant were to give its maximum output all the time, the Load Factor would be 100 per cent. But there isn't the load available for this to happen. Our figure of 51.5 per cent is pretty high...



GENERATION

The second year of operation has been a pleasant experience for the Operation Department; the work has become more smooth and more closely linked as a result of the improved liaison between one station and another and between stations and headquarters.

We started the year with a reduction of capacity, as two stations were honourably retired. Llandudno (600 kW) operating since

1906, was shut down because the obsolete design of the plant made the station an uneconomic proposition to run. At Warrington, the two 6,000 kW Brush Ljungstrom Turbo Alternators were dismantled and removed to make room for further extensions.

Using the information available at the time of going to Press it is estimated that the total units sent out during the year will be 2,452 million kWh against the first year's figure of 2,465 million kWh. Of this figure 3.5 per cent

Second Year Report—Electricity

CONSTRUCTION

The second year's operation under Nationalisation has resulted in a considerable increase in work on hand in the Constructional Department. Not only are the extensions which were in progress during the first year of working still carrying

on, but in addition designs are now in hand for the two new stations which were in the "project" stages 12 months ago; also for a third completely new station.

Probably the easiest way of looking at the whole picture is, however, to consider each station separately. Thus at the Bromborough Station, the name of which has been changed

BROMBOROUGH

SPRING 1949



BROMBOROUGH

SPRING 1950

from Birkenhead to Bromborough during the last 12 months to avoid confusion between the 132 kV substations—one of which already exists at Birkenhead and the second of which is now under construction at Bromborough—the structural steelwork is virtually completed, and the building work is about 70 per cent completed. The first two boilers are well advanced and the condenser for the first machine is on site. The turbine is also well advanced in the manufacturers' works and erection upon the test bed at the works will commence within a month or so. The usual difficulties with regard to bottlenecks in production and de-

livery of the million-and-one different parts to site in the correct sequence are very much with us, but nevertheless we hope that the first of the four 50 MW sets will be running before the end of the year.

At Clarence Dock the Civil Engineering works have proceeded exceptionally well and a good start has been made on the structural steelwork, but no plant is programmed for erection this year. No. 3 chimney is adding a further spike to the Liverpool skyline.

Work at Warrington is also proceeding and is up to programme. It is still expected that the new 30 MW Brush Ljungstrom Set will be com-

HYDRO-ELECTRIC STATIONS

It is rather surprising that the output for the North Wales Hydro Stations should be up to average, considering the dry summer of last year, but the rains in the latter months of the year, from October, have been considerable, and taking the increased storage values into account, we come out with practically average output for the year.

In the Hydro-Electric Department Report given in the April issue of last year's GRIDIRON GAZETTE, the hope was expressed that construction work would begin during the year on the Scheme for extension of water gathering ground at Dolgarrog and possibly also at Maentwrog. However, on account of considerable local opposition displayed to our proposals, the Authority decided to postpone construction and to include these extensions in the Private Bill to be presented to Parliament for the promotion of all our proposed developments.

Our Consulting Engineers have proceeded, in the past year, with ground surveys for the major developments proposed, and surveys on three Schemes for Nant Ffrancon, Upper Conway and Ffestiniog are completed and design work on the general layout, is in hand. Survey on further Projects will start shortly, and drawing office work meanwhile will be continued on the preparation of Parliamentary Plans needed for the promotion of a Private Bill.

In operating the hydro power stations, we finished 1949 with outputs which were practically average on preceding years. This output in the circumstances was good, taking into account the extremely dry weather conditions of 1949 from April until the middle of October. However, heavy rain in the last ten weeks or so of the year has evidently restored the out of balance of the dry months.

The question might be asked—what of the future Hydro-Electric Development programme for North

(continued overleaf)

Clarence Dock Extensions: Left, top—The excavation for the final extensions, Spring 1949. Below—The same, Spring 1950.



missioned in the middle of next year.

This completes the catalogue of major stations upon which building work is actually proceeding, but a tremendous amount of work has been done in the past year on the two stations which only existed as names twelve months ago. Both these stations, namely, Bold and Connah's Quay have now been brought to the position where preliminary designs have been completed and the formal application for Consent to build, which is necessary under the 1909 Act of Parliament, has been made in both cases.

At Connah's Quay the position is now that it only needs the push of a button when this Consent is obtained to start the actual site work, and Bold is almost in the same position. Actually, we in Construction have a very pet and particular grouse that the delay in obtaining these Consents is preventing us from starting.

We also have a further project which, at one time, was very "hush-hush", for another new station to generate power for the Atomic station at Capenhurst. This station

has also given us a few headaches, but we are beginning to see daylight and are now engaged on detailed investigations of a probable site. It is, however, too early to release any particulars on this station, but we in Division have some rather particular ideas on this subject which the Divisional Controller is now engaged in selling to Head Office. If these ideas mature, we hope to do something rather special.

In addition to these large schemes, a new Diesel Set has been commissioned at Aberystwyth and work on yet further extensions are in progress. In fact the engines have already been purchased.

To sum up, we made the startling comparison a few months ago that whilst the work in hand at Vesting Date on new extensions totalled 280 MW we are now engaged upon projects which, when completed, will give a total of 830 MW of new plant to be installed in the Division. We think with all modesty that this is moving some.

F. H. S. BROWN,
Chief Generation Engineer (C).

Continuing

Hydro-Electric Stations

Wales? A considerable element of opposition is being shown to Hydro Schemes in Snowdonia itself. It is our purpose to show that our Hydro Schemes can be fitted into an area of fine landscape in a mountain setting and be, at the same time, an asset to North Wales, both economically and an added attraction in a much-visited tourist area.

We look forward to our proposed developments with confidence and hope.

JOHN WARNOCK,
Hydro-Electric Engineer.

TRANSMISSION

Anticipating the commissioning of new Substations, the Division has now been split into three Sections instead of two as previously, but it will be some months yet before the new Section will be able to stand on its own feet.

Maintenance work has been kept up to programme but gear originally installed in 1932 is beginning to prove inadequate as no fewer than three switches have been damaged in clearing faults, which were only little above their stated rating in two cases and a little under in the third case.

More leeway has been made up on the deferred war maintenance on the painting of grid towers and substations, and by the end of this year all the badly rusted towers should be completely painted, except for one line which cannot be released for a sufficiently long period.

A NEW SUBSTATION

A new 132 kV Substation has been commissioned during the

year, giving a reinforced supply to Chester Town, and the old lines which originally fed Chester Town have been handed over to the Area Board.

Substantial progress has been made in the construction of Bromborough 132 kV Substation and associated 132 kV line approaches, St. Helens 132 kV and 33 kV Substations, and a start has been made on the construction of a new double circuit line between Knutsford and Crewe.

To sum up, the Transmission Department is now getting well into its stride and is well equipped to tackle the large amount of construction work in progress or in planning, and also to continue the maintenance work in an even more efficient manner in spite of the gear growing older year by year.

J. A. SPENCE,
Transmission Engineer.

TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT

The year has been one of steady, if not spectacular, progress, with the accent on maintenance rather on commissioning of new plant. Of the former, while some detail items are outstanding, due mainly to the necessity of training new staff, all major items are up to date. No particular trends in deterioration or other factors have been revealed in the year's maintenance testing. Probably the biggest headache was the relay panel fire at Percival Lane. Complete re-wiring and re-commissioning was carried out by Divisional staff.

No 132 kV lightning faults occurred during the year, but the westerly gales in November–December, combined with industrial pollution, followed by fog, took their toll at Lockfields and Southport. These

faults were cleared correctly, but they left behind some nasty scars on the oil circuit breakers concerned. **And talking of fault clearance, the Divisional protective gear performance figure for the year is 93.6 per cent correct.*** Of the 16 system faults, one was incorrectly cleared.

The 132 kV supply to Chester Town from Mollington, via approximately 2 miles of double circuit 132 kV line and 2-20 MVA 132/6.6 kV transformers, was commissioned during the year.

Commissioning tests on a 400 kW Diesel Set at Aberystwyth were also carried out.

Another job which might come under this heading was the rearrangement of the lock-in protection on the Barton–Warrington, Warrington–Percival Lane 132 kV lines, so that they could be operated as a Barton–Percival Lane line. This was at the request of Manchester System Operation Department, with a view to improving possible East/West load flow conditions arising from the loss of certain lines (in North Western Division) in the event of a fault.

The method of connecting the new Power Station at Bold (4-30 MW Sets) to the St. Helens 33 kV network and the Grid has been agreed and preliminary construction work is in hand.

***Little Man:** Is that very good, Mr. Burton? Should we get a medal?

Mr. Burton: Clearing faults correctly means that all the complicated protective gear works properly so that the place where the trouble has occurred is isolated and that the rest of the system—where there's no fault or trouble—is kept alive. In the first year of operation of the whole of the British Electricity Authority, 92.9 per cent of all faults were correctly cleared. So we've done a bit better than the last year's average for the whole country . . .

The complete Printometer equipment for ascertaining the Area Board simultaneous maximum demand has not yet been received from the Manufacturers. However, a system of daily log sheet returns has been put into operation to enable a figure for the S.M.D. for the current year to be obtained.

The war-damaged metering panels at Wallasey were restored to normal during the year.

With the collaboration of the Area Board and the A.T. & E. Co. a total undertaking (Sorry!—Area Board) load summation equipment was installed at Poulton and the “answer” is being transmitted to Seaview Road Substation, the Area Board control centre. The equipment is to serve two purposes—(1) An actual check on load shedding, and (2) As a check on the effectiveness of the ripple control of water heating equipment provided by the A.T. & E. Co.

As a measure of the deterioration (through possible corrosion) of 132 kV overhead lines the D.C. resistance of a number of lines were checked during the year. No serious deterioration was revealed, with the possible exception of the Lockfields—Southport line.

The location of earth faults on alternator rotors was also tackled, with particular reference to two sets at Warrington.

POWER FROM THE WIND

An experimental 300 watt Wind Generator has been erected at Dolgarrog, and some time was spent on developing a satisfactory method of recording the electrical output of this machine. Some useful information relating to Wind Power should be gleaned from this experiment.

E. A. BURTON,
Technical Engineer.

ACCOUNTANT

The Divisional Accountant and his staff, looking back over their second year's operations, have good grounds for satisfaction in the progress which has been achieved. They would like to tell it abroad but, somehow, it lacks the spectacular qualities which are needed to "hit the headlines." They must get accustomed to the humbling idea that the net result of it all will be found year by year in a few pages of the Authority's Annual Accounts.

Starting the year with the control of the financial administration of all the Power Stations and Transmission Sections in the Division already being exercised from Clarke Gardens, the Accounts people have expended considerable energy in devising improvements in their systems, both within the Divisional Offices and at the Power Stations and other places. As a result, a considerable number of financial operations are, by now, reduced to an almost fool-proof routine.

Over and above the exceptional work entailed in connection with the provision of figures for the British Electricity Authority's first published accounts **there has been steady progress with the analysis and recording of the current year's transactions. It is good to realise that, in this respect alone, we are many weeks ahead of last year's performance.**

The Divisional Accountant wonders how many readers realise that the working costs alone, incurred in the Power Stations in the Division, amount in a year to upwards of £5,000,000 and that a multitude of payments, large and small, have to be made besides. Consider well, then, if, in any extremity of your

own worries, you are tempted to wonder how the Accounts Department contrive to fill in their time.

To those who may have expected a more practical answer to the question, "How have we done?" in the shape of a Divisional Profit and Loss Account, the Divisional Accountant points out that it is not as easy as all that. The energy which is metered in the Division and sold on a wholesale basis (at a price which we know) to our friends of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board is not by any means that which is generated within the Division, the cost of producing which we know. There is an outflow of electricity to other Divisions and an inflow from them to this Division, involving production costs which we do *not* know. This is but one of the difficulties involved. There are many others which take much longer to explain.

What follows is something that an Accounts Department cannot say too often. Nearly every transaction has a financial significance and, as a rule, this significance comes in at the end. This is another way of saying that the Accountant's Department is invariably at the receiving end of the kick should anything go amiss. May they be, in the coming year as in the last, fully and accurately informed wherever money or money's worth are involved.

THANKS VERY MUCH

All that remains is for Divisional Headquarters' staff to thank their colleagues and all others concerned at the Power Stations and Section Offices for loyal and timely co-operation. Thanks too, to Engineering and Secretarial staffs at Clarke Gardens all of whom have contributed to a year of progress.

A. H. CAMPBELL
Divisional Accountant

SECRETARY

I see the Editor requires a brief report for the GRIDIRON GAZETTE of "how have we done" in the second year of being a Generation Division of the B.E.A. **The proof of the pudding is in how many complaints are received by the Canteen Supervisor, and so far as my Department is concerned, we have had many intricate interesting interruptions to the normal routine work of the sections, but with all, the pudding has been digested and the complaints have been very few.**

Just to remind readers what sections are working in my Department, I will run over them with you:

ESTABLISHMENTS—

with genial Walter Hughes at the head. He's nearing 60 and he can still sing a good song and keep smiling in spite of having a finger in the pie of every Generation Works Committee and Local Advisory Committee as well as keeping up to date with the problems arising out of the Joint Negotiating machinery. His section "keeps tab" on everyone in the Division and in his room are the personal records of every one of us. His staff deal with Sick Pay, Holiday Entitlement, Changes of Rates of Pay, and so on. J. B. Morgan, in this Section, also acts as Secretary of the Suggestions Scheme and the ideas are still coming in. The issue of the B.E.A. Superannuation Scheme and the formation of the Local Advisory Committees have increased the work of the Establishments Section during this year.

ADMINISTRATION

W. E. Boston is a quiet careful chap as senior under Wm. Brock the Senior Assistant Secretary. The section is not numerically strong, but it handles a mass of routine work on

the everyday matters which most of us take for granted, and in addition during the year this section has handled claims under the Town and Country Planning Act, has dealt with the Safe Driving Competition organized by R.O.S.P.A.; has built up statistics on works accidents; has dealt with the legal aspects of Vesting of Local Authority properties, leases and tenancy agreements; has assisted in advertising the Blood Donors campaign, has dealt with Government Departments regarding the de-requisitioning of authority land and property, and regarding houses for the staffs of new power stations.

PURCHASING

The man to get you anything (bar coal and coke) is J. D. Stewart the Purchasing Officer. His small section just keeps trying (and succeeding) to get the spares and the stores required by the stations. To him and his assistants, one day and one

● continued on page 20

He runs Bromborough Power Station single-handed! Mr. Harry Allen, seen in his crane, is the only Divisional Employee—as yet.



From: **The President of the Board of Trade**, the Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, P.C., O.B.E.

Member of Parliament for Huyton, Lancs. (LAB.)

I am very glad to have the opportunity of sending my greetings to GRIDIRON GAZETTE on the second anniversary of the vesting day for the electricity industry. Though frequently subject to political attack and ignorant Press buffoonery the Public Boards are doing a great job in operating great industries as a public service. The Merseyside and North Wales Division of the British Electricity Authority is charged with the important task of supplying electricity to a great industrial area, whose needs are increasing day by day, and, at the same time, of improving supplies over a large rural area which in the past has had far less than fair access to the benefits of electricity. To take over this task and unify it has been no small operation, the more so since there were great differences in standards and charges between the individual undertakings. But I am sure that, in the main, the citizens of Merseyside, South West Lancashire and of North Wales are satisfied that in these areas the Division has done a first class job, and industry and the domestic consumer alike can look forward to the provision of the best possible service at the lowest possible cost.

The area of the Merseyside and North Wales Division is covered by the Constituencies of 37 Members of the new Parliament (15 Labour, 17 Conservative, 4 Liberal and 1 National Liberal). We invited all 37 to send a message to mark the end of the Second Year of operation.

From: **Mr. Victor H. Raikes**

Member of Parliament for Liverpool (Garston) (CON.)

I am glad once again to send a message of good will to the Merseyside and North Wales Division of the B.E.A.

The greater the expansion of electricity the greater is the need for the consumers to be supplied cheaply and efficiently. When the first Report of the B.E.A. is debated in Parliament criticisms and, I hope, constructive suggestions will be made from all sides which will, I am sure receive due consideration from the Industry. It is however beyond controversy that those working under the Authority have a genuine desire to serve the community and it is indeed vital for the national economy that costs should be kept down.

The Merseyside and North Wales Division has great tasks before it and I am sure that the staff will do their utmost to tackle the problems that lie ahead.

Best greetings upon the second birthday of

From: **The Rt. Hon. Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, K.C.**

Member of Parliament for West Derby (CON.)

Once again it is my pleasant privilege to wish the staff of the Merseyside and North Wales Division of the B.E.A. in general and the producers of GRIDIRON GAZETTE in particular, a happy birthday and everything good for the ensuing year. It is becoming more and more widely realised how vitally important electricity is to the future prosperity of our country and to the well-being and comfort of all its citizens. I am sure that this high responsibility is understood and marked by all those among whom GRIDIRON GAZETTE circulates, and that the next twelve months will see even greater efforts and achievements than in the past

From: **The Hon. W. D. Ormsby-Gore**

Member of Parliament for Oswestry (CON.)

I have recently had the honour to be elected as Member of Parliament for the Oswestry Division of Shropshire and I am very glad to be able to send my best wishes to your magazine on its second anniversary, and also to your readers of the Merseyside and N. Wales Division of the British Electricity Authority.

I represent a largely agricultural constituency; I farm myself and

I appreciate to the full the immense contribution which electricity can make to our countryside. Not only is it an extremely efficient, flexible and handy form of power for assisting agricultural production, but it is also a wonderful boon in every household. In fact I believe that its extension into every rural home will be of the greatest help in maintaining a numerous and contented agricultural community.

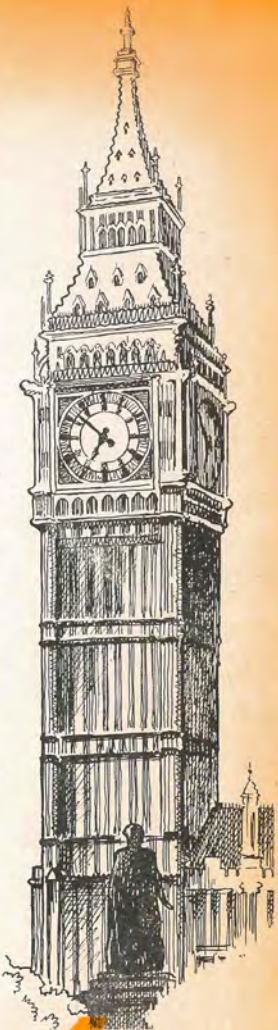
I wish your magazine and the work of your division of the B.E.A. every success in the

From: **Mr. J. Kinley**
Member of Parliament for Bootle (LAB.)

As one who has advocated the wide extension of the generation and use of electricity in industry and the home, I eagerly supported the Labour Government in the legislation which transferred all electricity producing and distributing concerns to national ownership.

I did not welcome this transfer from private or local authority ownership because I thought there was any magic in Nationalisation of itself, I believed that common ownership only, could and would supply a uniform system of production and distribution of electricity on terms which would make the use of current so desirable, that it would, in a reasonably short time, become universal.

I want the use of electricity to become universal as early as possible for many reasons, among them are: electricity is clean and efficient; it makes cleaner and healthier homes; it makes for cleaner atmosphere in the towns — which means brighter skies, cleaner lungs and a better health all round. Welcome therefore to



**FURTHER
MESSAGES
OVER THE PAGE**

From: **Major Basil Nield, K.C.**

Member of Parliament for the City of Chester (CON.)

GREETINGS from some of Your M.Ps. — continued

From: **Mr. Ken P. Thompson**

Member of Parliament for Liverpool (Walton) (CON.)

I send my sincere congratulations on the attainment of your second birthday. It has been a source of great pride to me as a member for some years of the Liverpool City Council to witness the smooth transfer of our great undertaking to the even greater fabric of whose new pattern it is so important a part. To have accomplished this merger with so little complication in times of great difficulty is a matter on which all concerned must be commended.

The great developments upon which the Authority is engaged will continue to demand from all who take part in them the highest standard of effort and endeavour. You command one of the most vital of man's resources and this knowledge must increasingly permeate through the whole of your Staff and draw from each the truest spirit of public service.

Great difficulties and much arduous work still lie ahead. I am

sure that the magazine GRIDIRON GAZETTE will play an important part in keeping alive everywhere an appreciation of the importance to the whole of each separate part of the work. GRIDIRON is both an expression among yourselves of the corporate spirit which must inspire your work and a "window" to the world outside to whose efficiency and amenities you can contribute so much. Many happy returns to you all.

From: **Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, C.B.E., K.C.**

Member of Parliament for Wirral (CON.)

I have read with great interest the copy of GRIDIRON GAZETTE which was recently forwarded to me. It is very well produced and contains many most interesting items. Whatever may be our political opinions with regard to the ownership and organisation of a great industry such as that of the generation and distribution of electrical power, there must be many points of agreement. It is very important to build up the esprit de corps of those

engaged in this service and to add in every way possible to their technical knowledge. Your magazine appears to me to be an excellent attempt to further both these aims, and I send it every good wish.

From: **Mr. Dennis Vosper**

Member of Parliament for Runcorn (CON.)

As a new Member of Parliament for a new Constituency, I have no hesitation in congratulating what is also a comparatively new venture, your staff magazine, upon completing its second year of publication.

It seems to me a most admirable effort, and must serve as a valuable link in the chain of communications so vital in your service.

The new Runcorn Constituency, comprising as it does the Urban District of Runcorn and Lymm together with the Rural District of Runcorn, provides an admirable balance of industrial, agricultural and residential areas, and therefore, my constituents are your customers in all branches of your service.

In addition to wishing GRIDIRON GAZETTE every success in the future, may I remind those concerned that I am always at their service as far as their personal problems are involved.

From: **Mr. W. E. E. Jones**

Member of Parliament for Conway (LAB.)

This issue celebrates the second anniversary of the day on which the whole of the Electricity Industry came under public ownership.

The last two years, a period of transition, have been well spent in laying down a sound foundation for its future development. The success of this great venture depends largely on the zeal and efficiency of those engaged in the generation of power and in operating the main transmission lines.

The change-over to public ownership can only be justified in the terms of more extensive supplies and the lowering of prices. This must be the aim of all who are employed in the industry.

May I, therefore, wish you well in your endeavours. Electrical Engineers have always maintained a progressive point of view. Your efficiency forms the essential basis for the future prosperity of British Industry. Without cheap and abundant

supplies of electrical power British Industry will decay. You are, therefore, engaged in a great enterprise. I know that you will succeed.

From: **Mr. Hendrie D. Oakshott, M.B.E.,**

Member of Parliament for Bebington (CON.)

I am very grateful to the Editor for offering me the opportunity of sending a message to GRIDIRON GAZETTE. I have read the February issue with fascination, and found it full of good things, from a very human "leader" to the interesting record set out in "Gridiron Log".

The latter, I think, brought me some realisation of the huge ramifications which lie behind the simple act of pressing an electric light switch and flooding a room with light which so many of us do without a second thought, and made me realise too what a debt we owe to those responsible for the generation of power and the operation and care of main transmission lines.

I wish GRIDIRON GAZETTE every success and I hope that it will be widely read both for its great interest and also for the story of those engaged in generation and transmission that will be found between its covers, and of which I believe too little is known.

From: **Mr. John Tilney**

Member of Parliament for Liverpool (Wavertree) (CON.)

This is the Electric Age, but how many people have still to be made aware of it. In this country we have still a long way to go. I look forward to the day when every house in the country has electric light, a telephone, and many labour saving devices. All this requires electric power, and the demand should increase year by year. In my Constituency stands the Lister Drive Power Station, but my Party does not believe that Nationalisation brings necessarily either efficiency or happiness to those who work in the particular industry nationalised. However, the B.E.A. has been going for too short a time to make it possible to form any worth while views on what changes, if any, may have to be made, and, in any event, I do not believe it is the job of successive Governments to spend their time in undoing the legislation of their predecessors. So, if I can help the officers of the Merseyside and North Wales Division of the British Electricity Authority, over any aspect of broad policy, or any employee, whatever his grade may be, who lives

** Continued on page 28*

● continued from page 15

year must be just like the previous day and year, it's all requisitions and orders, requisitions and orders, phone calls to suppliers, phone calls from the stations, requisitions and orders, but they keep it up and keep smiling.

ESTATES AND WAYLEAVES

Arthur Sharples, the Estate and Wayleaves Officer, usually wears cap and tweeds and has a fondness for an open four-seater to visit the farmers and others on whose land are the grid pylons. He has two assistants at Divisional Headquarters and one in North Wales. They deal with the maps of the Divisional Area, when a new power station is planned, Sharples and his men see the land owners and the Town and Country Planning men, they help to prepare the way for the Construction Department, and when new E.H.T. lines are planned, they go to work again with the farmers and land owners and Local Authorities, Town and Country Planners and help to pave the way for the Transmission Department. This year they are involved in three new power station sites, Bold, Connahs Quay and Ince and in three new line extensions, Knutsford-Crewe; Bromborough; Birkenhead, and Bromborough-Chester. They deal with tree cutting along the Transmission lines and with claims for damages to land owners property when Contractors are working on the transmission lines.

WELFARE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

This is a new section. H. H. Brown, the Welfare Education and Training Officer started with the Division in November. He has with him A. Alderson, Catering Supervisor, Miss O. A. Fairclough, Nursing Superintendent and two assistants. In July we held our second Arts and Crafts Exhibi-

tion at Clarke Gardens on a beautiful summer day which helped tremendously, and although it was very successful, we found a few flaws in the organisation which will be remedied this year when the third Arts and Crafts Exhibition will be held at Clarke Gardens on 10th June. The Welfare Section is now involved in arranging the training in First Aid, and in planning the visit of a mobile X Ray outfit for mass radiography. **The amenities at the stations are under examination and changes for the better are being made. New Canteens are on the stocks at Wallasey and Warrington and a Contractors' Canteen at Clarence Dock is being served from the Station Canteen.**

This brief survey of the Secretary's Department is not complete unless mention is made of Senior Assistant Wm. Brock, a confirmed bachelor whose main hobby is his job. He keeps a fatherly eye on all the sections and sorts out their difficulties.

Finally, we must mention all the other members of the department, both "bedded out" and otherwise, without whose willing co-operation given conscientiously, the pudding would undoubtedly have been burnt.

This second year has seen the completion of the work of converting Springwood House into offices. It houses three complete departments, Construction, Transmission and Technical, plus three Secretarial Sections, viz, Administration, Wayleaves and Welfare. Left at Clarke Gardens are the Divisional Controller, Operations, Accounts and part of the Secretary's Department. **So we begin our third year with our organisation practically completed and with most of the loose ends rapidly in the process of being tied up.**

E. BUTTERWORTH
(Divisional Secretary).

JOINT CONSULTATION

The Act of Parliament which set up the British Electricity Authority and the Area Boards contained clauses which required them to *"promote the welfare, health, and safety of persons in their employment, and to provide and assist others in providing facilities for education and training."* Section 53 of the Act calls on the Authority to seek consultation with any organisation appearing to them to be appropriate for the settlement of terms and conditions of employment.

Consultation in regard to terms and conditions of employment has been carried out by a re-adjustment of the negotiating machinery which existed previous to the passing of the Act. There were, of course, the National Joint Industrial Council which dealt with the terms of employment of the manual workers; the National Joint Board which related to the technical engineering staffs; the National Joint Council which dealt with the administrative and clerical grades; and the National Joint (Building and Civil Engineering) Committee for building and civil engineering workers.

During the past year, these various Bodies have re-orientated themselves to meet the new conditions consequent on the re-grouping of staffs with the constitution of the various Area Boards and Divisions. The difficulties which were apparent in the early days are gradually being smoothed out.

Implementation of the second aspect of the relationship of the Authority with those who work in the industry, however—that of Joint Consultation on welfare and training—caused the setting up of entirely new bodies which had not previously been available. The National Joint

Advisory Council was formed, comprising members from the Authority, the Generating Divisions, the Area Boards, and the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board; and members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union; the Electrical Trades Union; the National Union of Enginemen, Firemen, Mechanics, and Electrical Workers; the National Union of General and Municipal Workers; the Transport and General Workers Union; the Clerical and Administrative Workers Union; the National Association of Local Government Officers; the Electrical Power Engineers' Association; and the Association of Managerial Electrical Executives.

This Council carries out its work with the aid of District Joint Advisory Councils, again comprising members from the Authority and the Area Boards, and the appropriate Organisations indicated above, while finally there are Local Advisory Committees to assist each District Joint Advisory Council.

FIRST MERSEYSIDE MEETING

In Merseyside the District Joint Advisory Council first met on 24th June, 1949, and Mr. D. P. Oliver, Deputy Chairman of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board, was appointed Chairman, with Mr. H. J. Fraser of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, as Vice-Chairman; Mr. F. N. Chew was made Secretary. The inaugural meetings of the sixteen Local Advisory Committees were held during October and December of 1949. Those concerned with Divisional matters only are No. 9 (Clarence Dock); No. 10 (Lister Drive); No. 11 (St. Helens and Warrington); No. 12 (Percival Lane); No. 13 (Wallasey and Chester); and No. 16 (Divisional Headquarters). Nos. 5 to 8 are joint between the Area Board and the Division.



Second Year

LOOKING back at the panorama of what Mr. Churchill calls the "press and sway of human events" in the Merseyside and North Wales Division, the observer will see that a great deal has happened, though the impression gained is rather uneven, in that some Stations are much in the news, while others lag behind. *Do let us have all your news in the coming year.*

Two students (N. Guthrie and A. Rowe, both from Lister Drive) attended the B.E.A. Easter School at King's College, Cambridge; and two others (J. A. Davies, Cwm Dyli, and H. G. Roberts, Clarence Dock) attended the Summer School at Magdalen College, Oxford. They each testified how interesting and instructive the courses had been.

We have not received reports of many weddings—surely there must be many eligible bachelors in the Division, as well as beautiful girls. We don't want to turn GRIDIRON GAZETTE into a matrimonial bureau, but I am ready to come and ferret out all the bachelors for you ladies (provided I have first choice).

To say the second Arts and Crafts Exhibition in July was an enormous success is a commonplace, but the exhibits showed the great talent of all kinds prevalent in the Division.

A party of civil engineering students from Norway visited the Division in June, and was shown a new power station in construction.

Residential courses have been organised for employees, manual, clerical or technical.

This concerns everyone—Mr. H. H. Brown was appointed Welfare Officer to the Division. He is a man with infinite patience, understanding and experience, to whom anyone can confide his or her troubles.

Now for individual news.

HEADQUARTERS

The B.E.A.M. Sports and Social Club is flourishing. There are enthusiastic sections for football, cricket, tennis and hockey.

The secretaries of the cricket, ladies' hockey, and football sections have sent us comprehensive reports; pressure of space makes it necessary to hold them over until the next issue.

A Divisional Ball was held just before Christmas, complete with cabaret, ventriloquist, pianist and magician.

CLARENCE DOCK

This Station came in the twenty power stations first in the Thermal Efficiency Stakes in 1948. Well done, Clarence Dock.

Mr. P. G. Bordessa, a welder, was awarded the B.E.M. in



Report—People

the King's Birthday Honours List.

All members of the Clarence Dock Generating Station are eligible for membership of the Liverpool Electric Power and Lighting Sports and Welfare Club and all those who have availed themselves of the opportunity have undoubtedly enjoyed a very full and active year. This Club has catered for all temperaments and in whatever form members wished to show their capabilities they have always been able to find an outlet. The Athletic types have enjoyed Football, Tennis, Table Tennis and Badminton, and the less active (but not by any means less skilful) Billiards and Bowls. The Amateur Dramatic Society has kept up its reputation. Entertainments have been enjoyed every Sunday evening at the Pavilion, Guest artists providing the programme one week, and the Club's own talent the next. Whist Drives every Thursday evening have been very popular. Among the Red Letter Days of the year stands out the Annual Gala day in August, the two dances held at Reeces Cafe, and last but not least, the Children's Christmas Party.

The activities and success of the Clarence Dock Football Club have already been recorded in

GRIDIRON GAZETTE, but this year they have met with sterner opposition. Last season they gained promotion from the 2nd Division to the 1st Division of the Liverpool Business House Mid-Week League. It is a shift-workers team and that means that the members have to rely on the good will of their reliefs in order to be free each Wednesday afternoon. It is to the shift workers' credit that that good will has always prevailed. However, in spite of the stronger opposition and the absence due to sickness and injury of some of the regular members, they hope at the end of the season to be at least half way up in the League table.

For organising social events in the Station we have been indebted to the A.E.U. Social Committee. One of the Highlights was the well attended Dinner-Dance held at the Tudor Restaurant. Two coach outings were also arranged, the first to Morecambe and the second to see the Blackpool Illuminations. The Committee have already in hand an outing to Trentham this year.

A new development — a "Special Activities Committee" has been formed to find hidden talent for concerts which it is hoped will be held in the canteen at regular intervals.

Continued overleaf



Second Year Report—People

LISTER DRIVE

Captain Thompson keeps us informed of the activities at this Station. Lister Drive Dance Band, formed originally in 1941 as the Home Guard Band, is going strong.

Many employees, male and female, helped to make the Children's Christmas Party the great success it was.

PERCIVAL LANE, RUNCORN

The Social activities of the Mersey Power Recreation Club always reach a high pitch during the winter months and 1949 was no exception.

Commencing with the highly successful Annual Dance at the Runcorn Drill Hall on 4th November, this was followed by the Recreation Club Annual Dinner on 2nd December at the Waterloo Hotel, Runcorn. On 22nd December, at the Baths Hall, Runcorn, came the kiddies' turn to hold high revel. The Christmas Party for the children is always eagerly anticipated by the young guests, and they are never disappointed. On this occasion about 200 bonny youngsters thoroughly enjoyed the good things provided for them, and the Party was voted the best ever.

On 24th February at the Masonic Hall, Runcorn, the Football Section held their Annual Dance. This was extremely well organised by Mr. G. V. D. Davies and his able Committee, and about 140 attended and spent a most pleasant evening dancing to the strains of Billy Morton's Band. The dance was so popular that there is a general demand for a repeat at an early date.

The Mersey Power Football Club are members of the Runcorn and District League, where at the present time they hold a position roughly half way in the table. Playing strength at the beginning of the season was not particularly good, but at the present time they are

making excellent progress and expect to finish well up the league table by the end of the season.

The ground is in close proximity to the Power Station. Much work has been put in by playing and non-playing members to improve the pitch, with very good results. The Club is still interested in two local competitions, the Guy Watts Cup and the local works competition, and have more than an outside chance of winning both. Enthusiasm runs high, and the Club is well served by a hard working Committee and Officials.

ST. HELENS

The 20th and 21st December were important dates for St. Helens folk. First the Works' Lunch, held in two sittings, then the St. Helens Joint Gas and Electricity Recreation Club's Children's Party.

SOUTHPORT

Southport Darts Club has the right kind of treasurer—they started and ended the year with a good balance in hand. In June this go-ahead Club organised a successful charabanc outing to Morecambe and Blackpool, complete with competitions and prizes. There was also a trip to see the Blackpool Illuminations. During the year the Darts Club changed its name to the Southport Generating Station Social Club.

Correspondent W. M. Gore has promised to try and find holiday addresses for members of the B.E.A.

WALLASEY

A new canteen was opened during the year.

WARRINGTON

Members of the Warrington Power Station Employees' Social and Benevolent Club participated in the annual Bowling and Fishing

(Continued on page 25)

Second Year Report—People

Competitions, which finished up with a good meal and sing-song.

In December they visited St. Helens Gas and Electricity Club. Their other activities include football, cricket, darts, billiards, snooker and table tennis. Another memorable occasion was when they combined with the Sub-Area to hold a Social.

A new canteen was opened at this Station during the year.

WELSH STATIONS

The June number of GRIDIRON GAZETTE was devoted largely to Wales, and we hope to have more news from the Welsh Stations during the coming year.

Miss G. C. Edwards from the Wrexham Office Staff toured Spain with the Coedpoeth Youth Choir.

Mr. R. Roberts of Cwm Dyli rescued a student who got into difficulties in climbing a rock near Llanberis.

A fine display of models and plans

relating to the new hydro schemes (from Mr. Warnock's department) were shown at the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

OTHER STATIONS

If your news has not appeared, it is only because you have not written to us. Do send in articles, letters (of criticism if you like), electriquips, photographs, anything . . .

Thanks to all those correspondents (in particular Don Green, Captain Thompson and W. M. Gore) who write to us so regularly. Keep it up.

Compiled by J. Mollie Bull

An interesting report by Mr. John W. Johnson, of Clarence Dock, on the Mass Radiography Tests at that station, has had to be held over to the next issue.



Messrs. Murphy and Jenkins, at Wallasey Power Station. Camera study by Leigh.

END of SECOND YEAR REPORT

FROM OUR OWN EXTRA-SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS

NEWCOMER

Miss Pat Traynor is our Local Correspondent at Divisional Headquarters.

NEW TOUCH ON KEYS

Mrs. Claudine Cowland commenced her duties as Shorthand Typist in the Warrington Power Station on 17th January 1950. She replaced Miss Ena Clough who transferred to the Area Board Staff.

DOESN'T REGRET IT

On Saturday, 7th March 1925, Mr. A. J. Tilling, Accountant's Section (Stores Department, Clarke Gardens), was a tall and handsome young bachelor—that is, until 11 a.m. on that day, when he was happily married at Edge Hill Congregational Church, Liverpool.

Today, 25 years later, he is still happily married, tall and handsome, the silver in his hair matching the occasion of his SILVER WEDDING. On this day too, the sun shines brightly in marked contrast with the day of his Honeymoon, when, he tells me, it was snowing hard at Keswick. (What he does not tell me, however, is something which I feel I can say without any fear of contradiction—on the earlier occasion, he couldn't have cared less.)

Mr. Tilling spent 30 years with the Liverpool Corporation Costs and Stores Department, where he made many friends. These I know, would wish to join us, his new friends, in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Tilling good luck and God's Blessing, with many more happy years together.

Mr. Tilling hopes one day to settle in Keswick (no *Reno* about this!). L.B.A.

MR. P. KEOGH

It is with much regret that we record the sudden death on 20th February, of Mr. Patrick (Paddy) Keogh, for 27 years a popular member of the Percival Lane Staff. Mr. Keogh, who was 55 years of age, was employed at the Power Station as a Joiner's Labourer. His cheery presence will be much missed by all the Station personnel.

The interment took place on 24th February, at Runcorn Cemetery, and was attended by a large number of mourners, including many of his Power Station colleagues.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Keogh and family in their sudden and sad bereavement.

MR. G. WATKINSON'S ST. HELENS BUDGET

Mrs. M. Pennington, Head Cook at the St. Helens Canteen, left on the 8th January 1950, to take up a similar appointment with the Ministry of National Insurance at their St. Helens centre.

A collection was made amongst the canteen patrons and the proceeds were spent on an umbrella which was duly handed to her as an expression of appreciation for the services she had rendered.

We wish her well in her new surroundings.

On Wednesday, the 25th January, a party of employees accompanied by their wives (or girl friends) left the St. Helens Station in a saloon coach for Liverpool where they visited the Pantomime, "Puss in Boots", at the Empire Theatre. Asked afterwards if a good time was had by all, the reply was in the affirmative.

The Gas and Electricity Joint Recreation Club held its annual Dance in the St. Helens Town Hall on Wednesday, the 8th February 1950. Dancing—"Old Tyme" and modern—was to the music of Wally Moss and his Boys.

The patrons numbered 280, and included such notabilities as His Worship the Mayor and Mayoress of St. Helens; Mr. Cooper, the Divisional Controller; and Mr. Harling, (Manager, No. 2 Sub Area).

MR. BROWN'S DIARY

Glynteg,
Rhydyfelin,
Aberystwyth,
Cards.
20th February 1950.

Dear Sir,

I would like to indicate my appreciation of the contents of Mr. Brown's Diary. To my mind, a person who can impart his experiences in such a manner as to be absorbed and shared by non-partisans in their imagination, commands such recognition.

Thanks, Mr. Brown.—It was a grand trip.

Yours faithfully,

T. W. MASON,
(Switchboard Attendant
Aberystwyth).

(Mr. Mason also sends us an amusing anecdote, bearing on Mr. Brown's Diary. It is held over for reasons of space.)

'Welfare' Brown says— WRITE TO ME IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN UNUSUAL, INEXPENSIVE HOLIDAY . . .

IN connection with the Industrial Welfare Society's Youth Holiday Exchange Scheme, there are still a number of vacancies at the Holiday Fellowship Camp at Kessingland near Lowestoft, for young people of either sex between the ages of 17 and 25. There are 200 places at this camp for two weeks from 8th July, and 150 of these will be taken by young French people. We hope to have, therefore, 50 young men and women from industrial and commercial organisations in this country, spending their holiday with the young French people, acting as their hosts during their stay and enjoying interchange of information about their work and ways of life. Holidays at Kessingland may be taken for periods of a week or a fortnight, from Saturday to Saturday.

The camp is built on the sea shore, and there is a sandy beach.

The accommodation at the camp is in dormitories in double tier beds. The camp is supervised by a Warden and his wife, who have both had a long experience of this kind of work, including ten years in France.

Optional excursions will be arranged for those who wish to take part, to Oulton Broads, Norwich, Wroxham, Yarmouth and other places. There is a dining room and a large common room at the camp for dancing. Rules and regulations will be reduced to the minimum necessary for the well-being of any small community.

Charges are as follows:—Age 17-18, £2 5s. od. per week; Over 18, £2 12s. 6d. per week.

Application to join the camp at Kessingland should be made to me at Clarke Gardens, Woolton, Liverpool.

NATIONAL JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL

AT the fifth meeting of the National Joint Advisory Council, held on 19th January 1950, it was first noted that the Authority had approved the following recommendations:—

1. That the Authority should at their discretion make grants in individual cases of undue hardship which were not covered by existing benevolent funds.
2. That the existing Graduate Training Scheme should be amended to enable apprentices to serve a probationary period of six months, divided into two months each on generation, transmission, and distribution, and that the Graduate Training Scheme should also be slightly amended.
3. That a Spring School at Cambridge and two Summer Schools at Oxford should be held in 1950, and that the students should be selected by the District Joint Advisory Council.
4. That the previous recommendation on the use of low voltage portable electric tools and hand-lamps should be accepted.

Among recommendations made at this meeting, it was decided that unless the Chairman of the Committee ruled to the contrary in respect of any particular item, reports of the matters discussed at meetings of Local Advisory Committees could be published in official trade union journals and the journals of the Electricity Boards and Divisions.

STANDING Committees have been instructed to consider the question of hygiene in canteens; the incidences of industrial diseases in the industry; and the rehabilitation of employees following sickness or accident.

Model rules for sports and social clubs were approved, and the Welfare Committee further recommend that the Authority and the Electricity Boards should assist in every way to support the National Savings Movement.

The Committee also considered the question of canteens, and the following recommendation was made to the National Council and approved:—

Canteen facilities should be provided where there is a need for them; and in all new canteens the Electricity Boards should be responsible for the provision, maintenance, and replacing furniture and fixed equipment, and a contribution of

● continued overleaf

Atomic Thompson's Monthly Spot

"THREATENED, that's what I am," commences the Gallant Capt. in his monthly letter from Lister Drive, "by Turbine Driver Terence Kelly, for not recording his retirement in GRIDIRON GAZETTE. He left us recently, after many, many years' service. Sorry!—Good luck, anyway."

All the Brain Ensemble at Lister Drive are now learning First Aid (*continues the Capt.*). I was caught out when I made a Granny Knot in a bandage, instead of a reef. Me!—a Royal Engineer!—Taught to tie all knots, blindfold!

I will deal next with the General Election. Everyone at Lister Drive voted to a man (or woman). Nobody took time off to go to the poll. Or did they?

Everyone in the Sports Section are now oiling their bats or preparing their raquets—racquets I said, not rackets: can't spell either properly.

I'm admonished both by Welfare Brown and Miss Bull for being late with my Newsletter. Blimey!—"Do right and fear no man; don't write, and fear no woman".

And so farewell to these tropical isles, (*concludes Capt. Thompson, for no special reason*).

● concluding—N J A C

half the total wages paid to canteen staff other than waitresses. The costs of food, rental and replacement of other fixed equipment, and the remaining half of the wages should be met by funds obtained through the charges for meals, together with the cost of a waitress service or any other additional amenity.

Consideration should also be given to the problem of feeding small and scattered groups of employees.

A recommendation was approved that a National Exhibition of a fortnight's duration should be held in January 1951, showing the prize winning exhibits of the District Art and Crafts Exhibitions.

The Education and Training Committee put forward recommendations which were approved by the Council, stating that junior employees, particularly girls, after a probationary period should be offered an opportunity for a six months full-time education in a commercial institute. Junior clerical staff should also be given an opportunity of gaining experience in more than one department, and those considered suitable should be guided to take one of the provincial institutions qualifications.

Greetings from some of your M.P.s.

—Continued from page 19

in Wavertree, I am at their service.

In the meantime may the circulation of GRIDIRON GAZETTE continue to improve, and the readers of succeeding volumes still enjoy opening its pages.

From: **Mr. J. G. Foster**
Member of Parliament for Northwich (CONS.)

I am very glad to have been asked to send a message to all those employed by the Merseyside and North Wales Division of the B.E.A. I would like to congratulate the GRIDIRON GAZETTE on the high standard of its stories, and in particular its jokes. A pleasing and informative staff magazine is an essential factor in achieving harmony and team-spirit in any important industrial undertaking.

Whatever the result of the tussle in the House of Commons, production and industrial activity must go forward. The increased distribution and sale of electrical energy is necessary to augment individual productivity. The main reason production per man is considerably higher in the United States than it is in this country is that each worker in the United States has more horsepower available to him. Greater supplies of electrical energy will go far to supply this deficiency, and I feel sure that all in the B.E.A. are bending their utmost energies towards accomplishing this task, which has such a direct and vital bearing on the fortunes of this country as a whole. I have much pleasure in sending my best wishes to all those engaged in this very important work.

FEBRUARY

'GRIDIRON' LOG

PLANT AVAILABILITY

Plant availability improved in the second half of the month by the return to service of No. 1 set at Lister Drive, No. 3 Station. The plant has not been called on for maximum output. In the first few days of the month an output of 540/545 megawatts (sent out) was achieved.

FUEL CONSUMPTION

Colder weather conditions resulted in the Division's consumption for the four weeks ending 24th February being 150,037 tons, which was 11.13 per cent in excess of estimate.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC STATIONS

At Dolgarrog operating conditions have been normal, with rainfall above the average. The water storage position continues to be satisfactory with the reservoirs 83 per cent full. Similar remarks apply to Maentwrog, Cwm Dyli, and the other stations.

As the end of the wet season approaches, steps are being taken to maintain a strong water storage position. On the aggregate

the reservoirs are now 90 per cent full, with about 20.8 million kWh of stored water.

LOAD SHEDDING

There have been eight incidents during the month, all but one occurring over the breakfast peak. Generally a single stage of shedding was sufficient for system requirements.

FAULTS

There have been no faults during the month.

WELFARE

Approximately 300 members of the staff at Clarence Dock volunteered for Mass Radiography Tests during February.

ACCIDENTS

For the month of January 1950, the frequency rate of accidents causing loss of time beyond the day or shift on which they occurred was three per 100,000 man-hours worked, and the severity rate was 630.

APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have recently been made:—

Name	Appointment	Take up Duties
L. Duncombe	Technical Assistant, Percival Lane	1st February 1950
*A. Cooke	Junior Switchboard Attendant, Percival Lane	1st February 1950
H. A. Jermy	Junior Charge Engineer, Warrington	6th February 1950
B. Prout	Junior Clerk, Lister Drive	13th February 1950
A. Fairhurst	Time Clerk, Lister Drive	13th February 1950
A. A. Irlam	Engineer, Bromborough	15th February 1950
T. E. Corlett	Working Mate, Bromborough	15th February 1950
†E. O'Rourke	Clerk, Accounts Dept., D.H.Q.	13th February 1950
N. Thorogood	Clerk, Accounts Dept., D.H.Q.	24th February 1950
Miss M. V. Hughes	Shorthand Typist, D.H.Q.	27th February 1950

*Promotion. †Transferred from Lister Drive.

There have been no retirements during the month.

We regret to record the following deaths during the month of February:—

	Length of Service
Mr. P. Kehoe, Labourer, Percival Lane	24 years
Mr. A. E. Jones, Labourer, Dolgarrog	11 years

The following have resigned:—

Mrs. M. Truscott, Shorthand-typist, Warrington
Mrs. P. Orrom, Clerk, Divisional Headquarters
Miss G. Orton, Clerk, Divisional Headquarters

The personnel of the Division, therefore, now number 2,231, a decrease of one on last month's figure.

EASTER SCHOOL

When this issue appears, the first British Electricity School of the year will be in session, at King's College, Cambridge. Those from the Merseyside and North Wales Division selected to attend are—Mr. J. G. Greenhall, Shift Charge Engineer, Southport; Mr. R. Loughlin, Charge Hand Stoker, Clarence Dock.

Selection was made by the District Joint Advisory Council.



FOR many years my husband and I considered the possibility of spending a holiday on one of the canals with the idea of making a 16 mm. colour film. The decision was made for us when it became known early in 1949 that the brightly coloured canal boats were to be re-painted the standard colours of the Inland Waterways Transport Board.

We were fortunate enough to be able to hire a moored house-boat on one of the prettiest stretches of the Shropshire Union Canal at Market Drayton. The boat was a miracle of compactness, with two beds, calor gas stove, sink, table and a chemical closet. Water was stored in a ten gallon tank and fresh supplies obtained from a tap only one hundred yards away.

It seemed strange the first night to feel the gentle rocking of the boat as the traffic passed along the canal, and the soft chug-chug of the narrow boat engine exhausts became a familiar sound during the two weeks of our stay.

We were awakened early the first morning by sounds of laughter, and peeping through the port curtain, were amused at a party of Boy Scouts washing in the canal.

After a good breakfast on the canal bank in glorious sunshine, we decided to start filming at once while the weather was good. There were two narrow boats moored ahead of us and on board were Mr. and Mrs. Scragg and their four children, all very clean and well mannered. The two boats were spotless. When we set up the camera to take a picture, the eldest girl called out, "Please, missus—will you wait till I change me frock?" She dived into the cramped living quarters and reappeared a few minutes later all dressed up in her Sunday best. It is sad to think that these children do not get much schooling. Some of them are unable to read or write, but they are very intelligent. The day passed all too quickly and we took some interesting shots of the Tern Valley, and the cutting and locks at Tyrley.

Mr. & Mrs. W. G. PROBERT
present

HOLIDAYS AFLOAT

WITHOUT ANY ARRANGEMENT AT
ALL WITH ARTHUR J. RANK

TECHNICOLOUR BY
Mr. W. G. PROBERT

STORY BY Mrs. PROBERT

WATER BY THE INLAND WATERWAYS
TRANSPORT BOARD

EFFECTS BY NATURE, INC.

A MERSEYSIDE FILM

The following day we took a bus to Cheswardine and then a short walk to the Canal and into what is known as the "Deep Cutting". This undoubtedly is one of the loveliest stretches of the Shropshire Union Canal. The peace and quietness is so fascinating that one feels in a different world. Boat after boat glides by; and how lovely they look in their gaily coloured patterns! One attractive woman we met staggering along with two of the largest shopping bags ever seen filled with purchases she had made at a village nearby, told us her family of eight consumed forty-eight loaves of bread per week.

In the heyday of water transport, inns and shops catering for the floating population were many. Quite a number of these are still in existence, and how interesting it can be to sit in one of the 'Local's' of an evening, listening to the boatmen's conversation.

One day we travelled to Audlem through delightful wooded country terminating in a flight of fifteen locks down to the Cheshire Plain. We were amazed at the abundance of water fowl and kingfishers in this particular stretch of the canal.

Each day brought fresh delights and interests; and all too quickly we had to leave our houseboat and canal folk to whom we became very attached.

This was undoubtedly a perfect holiday, the pleasures of which are recaptured each time the film is shown.

*"Not regular
denizens of
the waterways:
a private four-berth
boat."*



*"At Market
Drayton, there
were moored
houseboats . . ."*



*"Mr. and Mrs. Scragg
were professionals.
This is their boat,
and Kenny is
one of their four
children."*



*"Here are some
more happy members
of the Scragg family,
on their boat."*

