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May 5 Basic elements of steel manufacture, by A E
 Crockett, manager, Bureau of instruction,
 Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation

This lecture is not available

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Discussion following lecture by Mr. A. E. Crockett

Colonel Jordan: We would like to know one thing, please: What is the present status of your work at Aliquippa?

A. About 45% at Aliquippa and 23% at Pittsburgh.

Colonel Jordan: And your big sheet mill is in Pittsburgh?

A. Yes.

Colonel Jordan: Are we going to get to see that this year?

A. We shall make every provision for it if you desire.

Colonel Jordan: I hoped to take the class over to Baltimore to see that new strip mill that they have at the Bethlehem plant, Sparrows Point, but we haven't gotten to that, and I think they are not operating at the present time.

A. I don't know what their practice is.

Q. What is the capacity of the steel industry now as compared with what it was in 1917?

A. I would say that it is 20% larger, due to the fact of the practice of increased use of scrap and enlargement of the number of furnaces that are being put in. I think it would run very close to that. You are speaking on the war basis and while we were supposed to be at 100% I think that 80% of the capacity is 100% because you have always got a reserve for changes in relinings and everything else of that character.

Commander Dunham: What is the position of the Jones & Laughlin Company as regards the export of scrap?

A. I have heard no expression from our people at all as to whether they have any objections to it or not. I have heard no comment made. We have not sold any scrap. As a matter of fact, we have been buyers of scrap and there is going to be more scrap used in the United States. They are learning the value of the oxides in the scrap.

Q. I would like to ask about labor, that is, is there a change? We used to have a great many immigrants in the steel industry. Has there been a gradual change in it, that is, a better grade in the common labor?

A. We have less green labor, but no more intelligent labor in common labor. You take a lot of these immigrants that came in; it didn't take them many days to say what they wanted to do as soon as they had somebody to act as an interpreter for them. We found many of them very responsive men, but there has been a gradual attrition in labor and the common labor today in many respects is not equal to the common labor that we had before. We have less strong backs today in industry than we have ever had, where strong backs are needed.

Q. Does your type of research indicate any possibility of reducing manganese as an essential material in a high type of steel that we need?

A. Rather on the other hand it shows a tendency for a little more increase to get the required ductility and strength. The only change of any moment is in carbon and there there is this one saving thing. They are bringing certain alloys like molybdenum and other things of that character even in the plants that are straight carbon steel plants. There doesn't seem much of a tendency for its elimination, rather it is on the increase.

Q. Does the Jones & Laughlin Company use any ferro-manganese that is mined in this country?

A. Not to my knowledge, save that it may be in our own ore. We don't mine it as such. We have some ores that are carrying certain percentages of manganese and we rather reserve that rather than to run in. It is expensive, you lose most of it in your blast furnace, to your slags. Your melting point is low in comparison with some of your others.

Colonel Jordan: Are there any other questions? I want to tell you one thing about Jones & Laughlin. You people think you have seen nails. Well, you haven't seen any nails at all. Jones & Laughlin make more nails than I ever thought the world could use at any time. And they have just got storehouses and storehouses, and the darned nail machines going at a rate -- well, I can't tell you, the only thing you want to do when get to this nail house is to get out. You have never seen as many nails in the world, and Jones & Laughlin are proud of them. I just don't understand it.

Mr. Crockett: A year ago last March we had hardly a nail left in that warehouse.

Colonel Jordan: Mr. Crockett, I want to tell you again, sir, how much we appreciate your coming here and how glad we are to have you as our guest. Thank you many times.