

company from all money liability for that ladleman's death. It is impossible that men in steel-mills should not grow careless. It is part of the inevitable psychological consequence of working next to a three-mouthed monster with sixty-four tons of boiling metal in its insides. But suppose, just suppose, that instead of being relieved from all money liability by the carelessness of a ladleman toward a fellow ladleman, suppose, just suppose that the company had to pay a flat fine of £1000 every time a ladleman was killed. Do you think that any slag-pot would ever be raised by its flange?

That is the real question. And the answer is, No.

The forty-six men who were killed in 1906 in the South Chicago plant of the United States Steel Corporation went to their deaths by a large number of different and divergent routes. Twelve of them were killed in the neighbourhood of blast-furnaces. One of them was hurled out of life by a stick of dynamite. Three of them were electrocuted. Three of them were killed by falls from high places. Four of them were struck on their heads by falling objects. Four of

them were burned to death by hot metal in the Bessemer Converter Department, where, as in the Open Hearth Department, iron is transformed into steel. Three of them were crushed to death. One of them was suffocated by the gas from a gas-producer. One of them was thrown from an ore-bridge by a high wind. One of them was hit by a red-hot rail. One of them, Ora Allen, was scorched to death by slag. And ten of them were killed by railroad cars or by railroad locomotives.

This last fact seems most extraordinary, most inexplicable, until an inspection of the plant is made. There are about one hundred and thirty miles of track in that plant, broad-gauge track, narrow-gauge track, stretching across open spaces, wiggling between dead walls, swerving around corners, darting through buildings, running in twenties, running in couples, climbing up to the mouths of the Bessemer converters, and descending to the level of the lake shore.

Continued on page 45.

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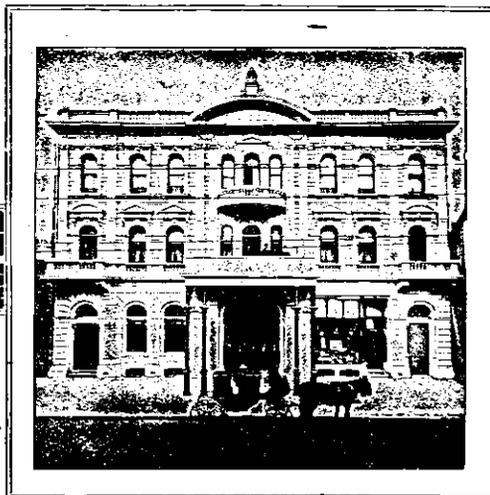
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