

Structural Steel from China

Mr Walter C. Pettit, 279 Clarence Street, Sydney, who represents, amongst other Eastern firms the Han-Yeh Ping Iron Co., of Hankow, China, returned from a visit to China and Japan on May 8. He states that whereas the foregoing company were formerly in a position to supply pig iron in this market they are not now able to do so owing to extraordinary demands of Russia and Japan, obviously in connection with the war. The firm, however, are large manufacturers of structural steel, and have now arranged to quote for this and mild steel bars in Australia. Although shipping facilities are not what could be desired, the firm are in a position to execute reasonably large orders and give fairly prompt delivery.

Albions at the Front

The following unsolicited testimonial has been received by Messrs Riley & Co. of Wellington who are the local agents for Albion lorries. The letter has been forwarded by the manufacturers to Messrs Riley & Co., they receiving it from one of the motor drivers in German South West Africa.

M.T. A.S.C., Aldershot.

Dear Sir,—

I am sending you a few photos that I thought you would like to have which have been taken in German West Africa by myself. As perhaps you know these cars belong to the South African Railways and have been running for nearly two years before they went to the Front, and as I can tell you they were the best lorry there, although they were second-hand. In fact I think with a few new tyres and a little doing up they would do another two or three year's work without trouble. As you will see according to the photos that two of your cars are loaded with two 2-ton lorries which had not done one month's work and had to be fetched home on two of your lorries. The third and fourth photos I have sent are just to show you the nature of the ground we had to travel on. In one place it took us three days to do nine miles on account of the sand, and the Albions were the only cars to get through.

Fibro Cement Manufacture in Australia

Another new industry is about to be started in New South Wales. James Hardie & Co., agents for fibro-cement slates and sheets, have obtained permission from the Federal Treasurer to establish a company for the manufacture of similar material, as they experience difficulty in importing supplies on account of the Home Government having requisitioned so much of late for new hospitals, internment camps, &c.

Concrete.

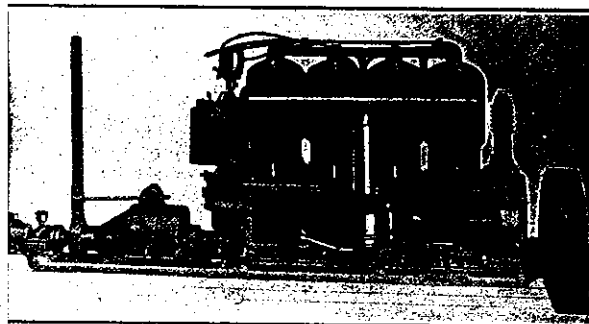
Rapidity of placing concrete where quick-setting cement is used is a point which must be carefully attended to. Some cements obtain their initial set in about 1/2-hr. after being wet. A slow-setting cement should be used when a long time is likely to occur between mixing and final placing.

The tendency of the average contractor is to mix concrete too wet, the cement being washed to the lowest point of the forms, and the rest of the concrete suffers in consequence.

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