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SOURCE Newspapers and periodical as indicated.

STEELWORKERS BEAT NORMS, PLEDGE SAVINGS

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Leading iron and steel workers continued to spur the economy drive and to break production norms in April and May. The Kuznetsk Combine imeni Stalin, which completed the 4-month plan for the entire metallurgical cycle ahead of schedule, has been achieving new production successes in May. At blast furnace No 3, a coefficient of 0.82 for capacity utilization of the furnace has been attained as compared with the norm of 0.89.(1) In 12 days of May, the combine's blast-furnace workers produced hundreds of tons of above-plan pig iron and achieved a coefficient of 0.85 for capacity utilization of the furnace as compared with the planned 0.89.(2) A large-capacity blast furnace is rebuilt in 63 days at the combine.(3)

The combine's steel production has also been high. In 12 days of May, the average production of steel per square meter of hearth in the second open-hearth shop exceeded the progressive norm by 230 kilograms.(2)

At the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine, for 25 days in April, a leading steelworker averaged 9.81 tons of steel per square meter of hearth and produced 668 tons above plan.(4) The three Magnitogorsk steelworkers who started the recent economy drive and who operate open-hearth furnace No 3, in April saved 45,000 rubles and produced 1,315 tons of steel above plan.(5) In 10 days of May, these same workers obtained 10.42 tons of steel per square meter of furnace hearth. This is one more ton than in April and considerably exceeds the norm established for furnace No 3. They also produced 1,350 tons of steel above plan and saved 56,000 rubles' worth of raw materials in that same 10-day period.(6)

The Chelyabinsk Metallurgical Plant imeni Ordzhonikidze is furnishing steel columns and other metal structures for the main passenger room of the "Komsomol'skaya-kol'tsevaya" Station of the Moscow Subway.(7)

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At the beginning of 1950, the Party organization of the blast-furnace shop of the Novo-Tagil'skiy Metallurgical Plant set the coefficient for utilization of the furnaces at 0.88, to be reached in the near future. Some administrators at the plant felt that this figure was impossible to attain except in the far future. However, it took only 3 months to reach the goal.(8)

With the success of the high-speed steel melts at the plant, a new schedule was drawn up in which the average length of the melt is set at 8 hours 30 minutes, or 2 hours less than the former norm. In March, the open-hearth shop increased the smelting of steel 34.3 percent over March 1949. The leading worker, who set the all-Ural record of 15.3 tons per square meter of hearth, achieved an average of 8.8 tons per square meter during 20 days of April and produced 164 tons above plan.(9) The new record melt at the plant is 6 hours 25 minutes with a production of 16.1 tons of steel per square meter of hearth (10) at open-hearth furnace No 2 (11). The record of 16.1 tons is almost 10 tons above the progressive norm. The time schedule was exceeded by 3 hours 5 minutes.(12)

In the field of savings, in 1949, the commercial cost of production put out by the plant decreased by almost 10 percent and the plant obtained nearly 18 million rubles above plan in savings.(8)

In Sverdlovsk Oblast, a leading steelworker at the Kushva Metallurgical Plant recently obtained 11.4 tons of steel per square meter of hearth as compared with the norm of 5.5 tons.(13)

A group of workers at the Serov Metallurgical Plant was awarded the Stalin Prize in March for developing and introducing into production new methods of forcing blast-furnace smelting. Among the winners was Gennadiy Fukalov, operator of blast furnace No 3, who has achieved 0.64, the highest coefficient for blast-furnace utilization in the world.(14)

A leading steelworker in the open-hearth shop of the Dobryanka Metallurgical Plant, Molotov Oblast, recently obtained a record production of 7.14 tons of steel per square meter of hearth as compared with the planned 5.6 tons.(15)

In Moscow, workers at the "Serp i molot" Plant have made the following pledges for economy: in open-hearth shop No 1, to produce each month at least 6 melts on saved fuel and to operate one day per month on saved ferromanganese and pig iron; in shop No 2, to produce no less than 4 melts per month on saved fuel; and in the section-rolling shop, to operate the "750" Mill $1\frac{1}{2}$ days per month on electric power saved by the shop.(16)

In the postwar period, the "Serp i molot" Plant has done much to mechanize labor-consuming processes. Up-to-date mechanization has been adopted in the open-hearth furnaces and rolling mills, large gantry cranes have been installed in the shops, and some sections have continuous production lines. But hand labor is still used in freight handling, packing, and loading, and hand labor is the main cause for the lowered efficiency in the leading sections. The plant mechanization bureau has pledged to put into effect in 1950 sufficient proposals for mechanization to release 200 workers from labor-consuming operations. Mechanization of all loading and unloading work can be accomplished in all the plant's shops, according to the bureau.(17)

Workers in the plant laboratory of the Stalino Metallurgical Plant have done much research on increasing the weight of the ingots of open-hearth steel. The engineers changed the form of the ingot molds and increased the weight of the ingots by 300 kilograms, thereby considerably decreasing metal waste in rolling operations. The new method has helped to decrease the consumption of the expensive molds; previously, 45 molds were used in casting 1,000 tons of steel, whereas now only 39 are needed. The rolling cycle has also been speeded up. The new method has been put into effect in three shops and will help the plant to save $4\frac{1}{2}$ million rubles annually.(18)

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Metallurgists of the Makeyevka Plant imeni Kirov have started rolling complex steel profiles for use in building automotive agricultural combines.(19)

Steelworkers at the Stalingrad "Krasnyy Oktyabr'" Plant are regularly obtaining 9-10 tons of steel per square meter of hearth, almost double the planned norms.(20)

The Odessa Cable Plant is meeting a large order for the construction of high buildings in Moscow. Recently, the plant shipped a consignment of especially durable cable to be used in elevators.(21)

In 1949, the Kazakh Metallurgical Plant substantially accelerated the turnover of working capital as compared with 1948, and in the first quarter of 1950 the turnover has been speeded even more. This has resulted from a decrease in the time spent in basic production cycles, by extensive adoption of high-speed smelting, and by a sharp increase in the productivity of equipment, as well as more economical use of raw materials and fuel.(22)

The plant's open-hearth workers completed the 5-month plan for smelting steel on 16 May. The shop completed five high-speed melts on saved mazut in the last 15 days.(23) By the end of the month, workers expect to produce a trainload of steel above plan.(24)

Pukhtin, chief of the rolling shop of the Uzbek Metallurgical Plant, wrote an article in the newspaper Za metall in which he stated that the open-hearth shop of the Kazakh Metallurgical Plant is a close copy of that of the Uzbek Plant, but that there is a great difference in the dependability of their performances. The article criticized workers in the Uzbek Plant who are slow in adopting the advanced methods of the Kazakh workers. At the Uzbek plant, the poor performance of the commutator of the charging machines often results in breakdown. A similar situation faced the Kazakh steelworkers, but they made a change in the structure of the commutator and their charging machines now operate continuously. The blueprints for the structural change in the commutator were delivered to the Uzbek plant, but the deputy chief of the open-hearth shop is still studying them after one month.(25)

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10. Trud, No 110, 10 May 50
11. Leningradskaya Pravda, No 110, 10 May 50
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13. Kommunist, No 103, 30 Apr 50
14. Komsomol'skaya Pravda, No 81, 5 Apr 50
15. Izvestiya, No 78, 1 Apr 50
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25. Pravda Vostoka, No 108, 10 May 50

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