



L. F. Coffin

President

*Association of Iron and
Steel Engineers*

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The President's Message

Our organization has passed through its first year under its new name of "The Association of Iron and Steel Engineers." While this change in name and the dropping of the word "Electrical" indicates a broadened scope of activity, this widened field has been reached gradually; and even before the actual change in name.

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That our association holds a unique position among engineering organizations in that it embodies Electrical, Mechanical, Combustion, Welding, Lubricating, Safety, Metallurgical and Operating men in its membership is not strange. How could it be otherwise and give us the strength required?

The steel industry and expansion must go together. Picture if you can, a major construction program at any plant, properly and successfully executed without the utmost of contact, weekly, daily and hourly, between all of the groups above mentioned. The steel industry is not one, but many industries forged together into a unit because we are making from a basic raw material many widely diversified finished products.

Let us take one type of construction project that has engrossed the attention of many plants—that

of building continuous hot and cold strip mills—and diagnose a few of the factors involved. The operating executive must determine the type of product the market needs or will absorb. The operator must specify reductions and speeds and finish desired; the mechanical engineer agrees that these requirements can be met by existing types of mills or designs new mills to such needs; the electrical engineer figures power and delicate split second control; the combustion engineer provides heating to suit and temperature measuring equipment; the welding engineer fabricates newly designed and cheaper and better machinery to enable the economics of the situation to be sound; the lubrication engineer specifies oil and grease systems and seals to protect bearing surfaces and keep them free from scale and water



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contamination; and in all these the safety engineer must have his finger. Nor is the picture complete without the sales representatives who, speaking for the manufacturers of steel mill equipment, give counsel and advice and leadership that is far reaching. Without one of these, what might the result become? With all of these, capable and cooperating, the result must be success.

This then is the challenge for our Association that we increasingly continue to weld together all of these operating and engineering interests and enthusiasms into an even

stronger and more unified whole. This we must do by still further strengthening the tools already at our hand and by using them to their utmost usefulness. Better attendance at local section meetings more prepared as well as extemporaneous discussion at meetings, increased contributions from active members in the form of papers and articles for "Iron and Steel Engineer" are some of the means to this end.

To our membership and to those who should be of our membership, there is little need of pointing out the material advantages at your very door, if you but make full use of the privileges of your associating with other engineers whose interests are linked with yours. To individual members the lack of full use of such membership may mean stagnation, loss of interest, failure; the full use of it, enthusiasm, a

widening vision, the power to grasp the opportunity when it arises. To those many companies and operating executives who encourage engineers and insist on their full participation in the activities of the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers and other engineering societies, the reward is the reasonable assurance of an alert, progressive and cooperative staff. To our Association, failure to coordinate and to leaf and to push forward into wider fields will mean decay.

Your Officers and Directors assume their responsibilities fully recognizing the high standards that have been set for them and pledging their best efforts in advancing the integrity and prestige of our Association.

L.F. Coffin
President, ASIE