

STEEL OUTLOOK IS SATISFACTORY IN PITTSBURGH AREA

Corporation and Independent Mills Say Prospects Are Encouraging.

By United Press
PITTSBURGH, July 9.—The condition of the steel situation in the Pittsburgh production area is "satisfactory with encouraging prospects," according to reports from both corporations and independent mills.

Mills are running at about 80 per cent of production capacity, although some in the immediate Pittsburgh area are down to a 70 per cent basis which is not considered low for this time of the year.

No Summer Slump

So bright is the prospect of future business that some concerns, fearing they can obtain better prices with the rush of all business, have limited contracts to July and August deliveries. Officials express confidence that business will not slump during the summer months, the period of the usual lull.

An increase in the production of automobile steel has been most noticeable. Since the damp, cool days of a lingering spring have passed a demand for automobile bodies has been stimulated and automobile manufacturers report a decided spurt in orders, resulting in large steel contracts.

Pipe mills report that production has been boosted to 80 per cent of capacity within the last month. Because of the heavy demand, buying in all departments has hit an unusually high point and an all-around healthy condition was indicated.

Railroads Differ

Railroad men, however, do not return so encouragingly, although they admit that steel shipments within the last six weeks have exceeded those of the same period last year.

Railroad officials claim that steel executives have included ingot production in their reports. They said ingot production was largely an inter-plant tonnage and should not be figured in actual output totals.

Steel men contend that the only proper basis for production calculation must include ingot production, declaring that the tonnage of finished products shipped by rail, would not be fair to the mills.

No one, however, is complaining seriously. The consensus of opinion is conditions are satisfactory and prospects encouraging.

CONSIDER REMODELING

State Officials May Repair Old I. U. Medical Building.

State officials have returned to the consideration of remodeling the Old I. U. Medical building on Senate Ave., opposite the Statehouse, for use as an annex for the Capital building, it was learned today. Cost of erecting a new building on the site, many believe, would be prohibitive if the structure were made fireproof.

The buildings and grounds committee today pre-arranged an old set of specifications drawn for the highway commission when that body considered remodeling the building.

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