

ADDRESS TO SULPHIDE STAFF SOCIETY

By Mr. S. F. Derbyshire

Mr. S. F. Derbyshire of the British Aluminium Company visited Cockle Creek again on the 31st July. During his visit the Sulphide Staff Society were honoured by an address from Mr. Derbyshire who, until his retirement in February 1956, was General Production Manager of the British Aluminium Company and Director of several of the company's subsidiaries. Since February 1956, Mr. Derbyshire has been retained by his company in a consultative capacity.

He is at present in Australia engaged in a appraisal for Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation of the proposed aluminium industry based on the bauxite deposits at Weipa on Cape York Peninsula.



Mr. S. F. Derbyshire

In opening his address Mr. Derbyshire traced the history of the search for bauxite (the raw material for aluminium production.) since the first commercial production of the metal in the latter half of the 19th Century. He described the wide-spread occurrence of bauxite, with many of the deposits of which he was personally

familiar. Mr. Derbyshire pointed out that the world production of aluminium increased from one million tons in 1952 to three million tons for the year 1955. This growth had resulted in greatly increased activity in the search for new bauxite fields in recent years. One of the most important results of this search had been the discovery of the Weipa deposits. As an indication of the forecasted growth of the aluminium industry, Mr. Derbyshire said that the present world output of about 3½ million tons was expected to increase to 6½ million tons in 1965.

Mr. Derbyshire described in some detail the methods employed to locate and prove likely bauxite deposits and in so doing took his audience round the world and to every continent several times. He described a good deposit to be one containing adequate reserves of bauxite, carrying 50/60 per cent. alumina (Al_2O_3) and less than 5 per cent. silica (SiO_2). In this regards the Weipa deposits are outstanding.

Mr. Derbyshire went on to describe briefly the methods of extracting alumina and the reduction of the alumina to aluminium. He concluded with a general comment on the future of the industry and the likely outcome of the association of our parent company with British Aluminium in the development of the Weipa field.

J. H. S.

VISITOR

Mr. D. Stewart, Works Manager, A.C.F. and Shirley's Fertilizers Ltd. Pinkenbah Qld. recently inspected our acid and fertilizer installations. He is shown here with (left) Fertilizer Plant Superintendent, Mr. L. R. Filmer and (right) Chief Superintendent Production, Mr. W. H. Wadsworth.

