

"She's A Beaut!"

(From our Special Metallurgical Correspondent)

Furnaces, like ships, are definitely of the female sex and it needs men to make them work. The better the men, well . . . ! !

In May, after operating for 33 weeks, we reported that the furnace was still working beautifully; we can now record that the later weeks of the 9th Campaign saw records broken on every side. Two which give great satisfaction are:—

- **Longest Operational Period for any One Furnace Campaign—365.3 days.**
- **Greatest Output of Slab Zinc in any one week from an I.S.F. Plant—1,167 tons in Week 44.**

It was a grand campaign showing progressive improvement right up to the end. For example the average campaign weekly production rate rose from the figure of 963 tons of Slab Zinc as quoted at Week 33 to 972 tons at Week 49. However very great credit must be given to the Sinter and Acid Plants. In May shortage of sinter was a severe limitation; since this month, even with their problems little changed, these plants succeeded in providing adequate sinter of sufficient quality to meet the increasing demand of a very hungry furnace.

More good men !

There is a great deal of satisfaction in solving the accretion problem. While furnace shaft accretion still forms it does so to a lesser degree than previously, and can be held at an average low level by blasting; the result of this is that we do not meet with the progressive deterioration in performance and output which has characterised past campaigns. We cannot claim to have accretion fully beaten but progress has been sufficient to make campaign life more dependent upon engineering in the widest sense rather than in one particular item of furnace metallurgy.

The campaign shut-down is over and production has commenced again, the output for the opening weeks being very pleasing. It is a correspondent's privilege to indulge in dreams and considerable licence and the following opinions, for that reason, are not official, nor does the editor accept responsibility for them:

- In the very near future the weekly output record will be eclipsed and we will make 1,200 tons of zinc in a week.
- The sustained average output of slab zinc will reach the figure of 1,050, possibly 1,070, tons per week.

We could do it! She's good enough—and, we believe, so are the men !

Editor's Note—Our correspondent's prediction (of several weeks ago now) for sustained average zinc production has been good for the first six weeks, which have averaged exactly 1050 tons of zinc.

OUR FRONT COVER :

Leadburning is a trade demanding much skill and attention from the operator. . . . Here we have a fine study in concentration as Eddie Alley carries out a job in the Plumbers' Shop. Incidentally Eddie was a Long Service Award recipient this year.