

GROUP NEWS . . .

The C.R.A. half yearly report for the period January-June, 1965, was published at the end of August and carries news of importance about member companies' operations and their plans for the future.

Of perhaps the most interest to us at Cockle Creek were the following facts and figures:—

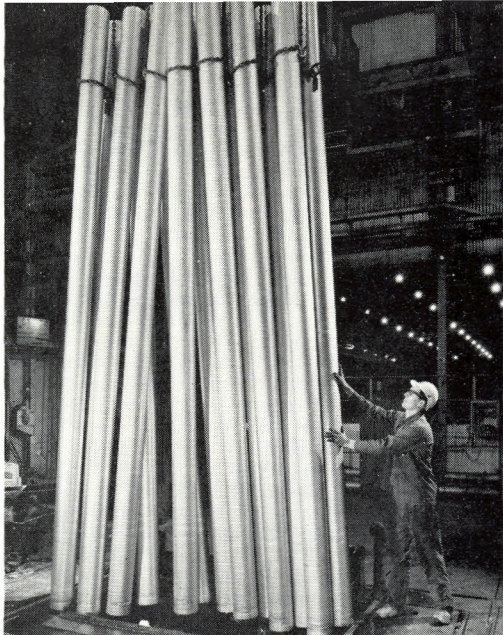
The Zinc Corporation mine operated near peak capacity during the period and output was considerably higher than the first half of 1964 when some time was lost due to industrial disputes. Ore milled was 450,547 tons, lead concentrate production 64,573 tons and zinc concentrate 73,074 tons.

At B.H.A.S., Port Pirie, it was announced, in February, that a decision had been taken to proceed with the construction of an integrated Zinc Plant to treat lead blast furnace slag which has been accumulated at Port Pirie over many decades. The new plant will produce in excess of 30,000 tons of electrolytic zinc per annum from zinc oxide, and is scheduled for completion by the end of 1967. Planned capital expenditure is approximately £6,000,000.

Comalco Industries Pty. Limited reports that production and sales of primary aluminium and semi-fabricated mill products in the first half of the year have been satisfactory, although demand for mill products in recent months has lessened as customers have reduced inventories. Shipments of bauxite have again been ahead of budget and in June the millionth ton of bauxite was shipped from Weipa.

The planning and construction for expanded mining and shipping facilities and the new township at Weipa are on schedule.

Long-term financing arrangements for the Comalco Group and also for the alumina project being constructed by Queensland Alumina Limited (8% owned by C.R.A.) at Gladstone, Queensland, have been successfully completed with two groups of U.S. institutions. Comalco, of course, is 50% owned by C.R.A. and 50% by Kaiser Aluminium and Chemical Corporation of the U.S.A.



Cylindrical billets of aluminium, freshly cast by the direct chill process at Bell Bay. Produced in lengths up to 20 feet, aluminium in this form goes to extrusion presses in Australia and overseas for the production of semi-fabricated extruded shapes and sections.

Work on the Gladstone project began in 1964 and is scheduled for completion early in 1967. Initial planned capacity is 600,000 tons of alumina. It will be the largest alumina plant ever constructed as a single unit.

The C.R.A. report states that a formal contract was signed by Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited for the sale of 65½ million tons of high grade iron ore to seven Japanese steel mills over a period of approximately 16 years commencing in 1966. Construction of the necessary facilities to service this contract has been commenced comprising an open pit mine, crushing, screening and stockpiling facilities, a 180 mile railway, port, two towns and all associated services. By the end of June, most major contracts had been let and over 1,300 men are now employed in the field. Since 30th June a contract has been signed with six Japanese steel mills for the purchase of 16 million tons of iron ore pellets over a 16 year period commencing in 1968 and the required pelletising facilities are being planned. Agreement in principle has