

GIANT INDUSTRIES OF RHODESIA

THE STORY OF STEEL - ANCIENT & MODERN.

Through the courtesy of the Rhodesian Iron & Steel Co., a party of 12 Ancient Iron Workers from the Charter district near Salisbury were shown round the extensive works of the RISCO plant.

The Company have just installed a new 1.8 Million pound blast furnace and are further embarked on a 10 Million pound expansion programme.

Apart from providing the Federations growing economy with its steel requirements, export orders have been secured and orders from Overseas including the United Kingdom have been fulfilled.

This contrasts rather strangely with the methods employed by the ancient workers who were fully responsible for keeping the armies of Lobengula and other chiefs equipped with spears and other implements as required.

M. FISHER  
15/5/61.

SEE DETAILED NOTES ATTACHED.

PS. TAPE RECORDING OF MBIRA or Native drums enclosed.

SCENES OF WARRIORS WITH SPEARS etc., MAY BE UTILISED FROM PREVIOUS COVERAGE SENT YOU - refer TRADE FAIR 7/5/61  
also last years TRADE FAIR MAY 1960.

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GIANT INDUSTRIES OF RHODESIA - STEEL - a story of enterprise, courage & vision.

The story of the Rhodesian Iron & Steel Company (RISCO) - is one from which emerge vision, courage, enterprise and skill, setback, a little luck and the Companies ultimate triumph as one of the Federations greatest industrial undertakings.

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On a riverside site at Redcliff, Southern Rhodesia, which in the early post war era was famed only as a picnic spot, furnaces roar and quarries rumble while the wooded hills which overlook the vast plant tremble at the passage of heavy freighters, hauling steel to link with the main Railways- Salisbury line a few miles away.

Risco now engaged on a 10 Million pound expansion programme designed to increase output to 150,000 ingot tons of steel and to introduce a strip mill, has only been in the hands of private enterprise since 1957 when the plant was taken over from the Southern Rhodesia Government.

In 1938 when an impending war brought the threat of a world shortage of steel - the Redcliff site was chosen as it was known that the area contained both iron ore and limestone - the basic necessities for a steel industry. Some years later the first blast furnace was installed and in spite of numerous setbacks and difficulties the plant has been increased and improved upon with the result that today the RISCO plant not only supplies Rhodesian users of steel but export orders to Overseas countries including Britain have been fulfilled.

A new boiler plant and power station were brought into use in March 1960. A battery of coke ovens, by products plant, gas cleaning plant and gas holder were operating three months later. The ovens are producing about 120,000 tons of coke a year to blast furnace specifications, and the gas holder with a capacity of 1 Million cubic feet is the biggest in the Federation. Later in 1960 a second open hearth furnace brought into production and the two now in operation turn out about 140,000 tons of ingot steel a year, amounting to roughly 110,000 tons of finished products.

In February this year a new 650 tons a day blast furnace was blown in and the new sheet mill designed to produce plate up to 4" thick will be completed shortly.

Last year and early this year more than 22,000 tons of billet steel were sent to Britain. Securing this order - from the British Iron and Steel corporation who wanted it for re-rolling was a significant achievement for RISCO.

Like every vast undertaking RISCO employs about 600 Europeans and 1900 African employees. All are housed in the Company's modern housing schemes where all modern amenities are provided in an area that was carved out of the Rhodesian bush in just a few years.

The European and African workers have a common goal mind - to fulfil the needs of this vast industry and to bring prosperity and peace to all its the inhabitants of this great country.