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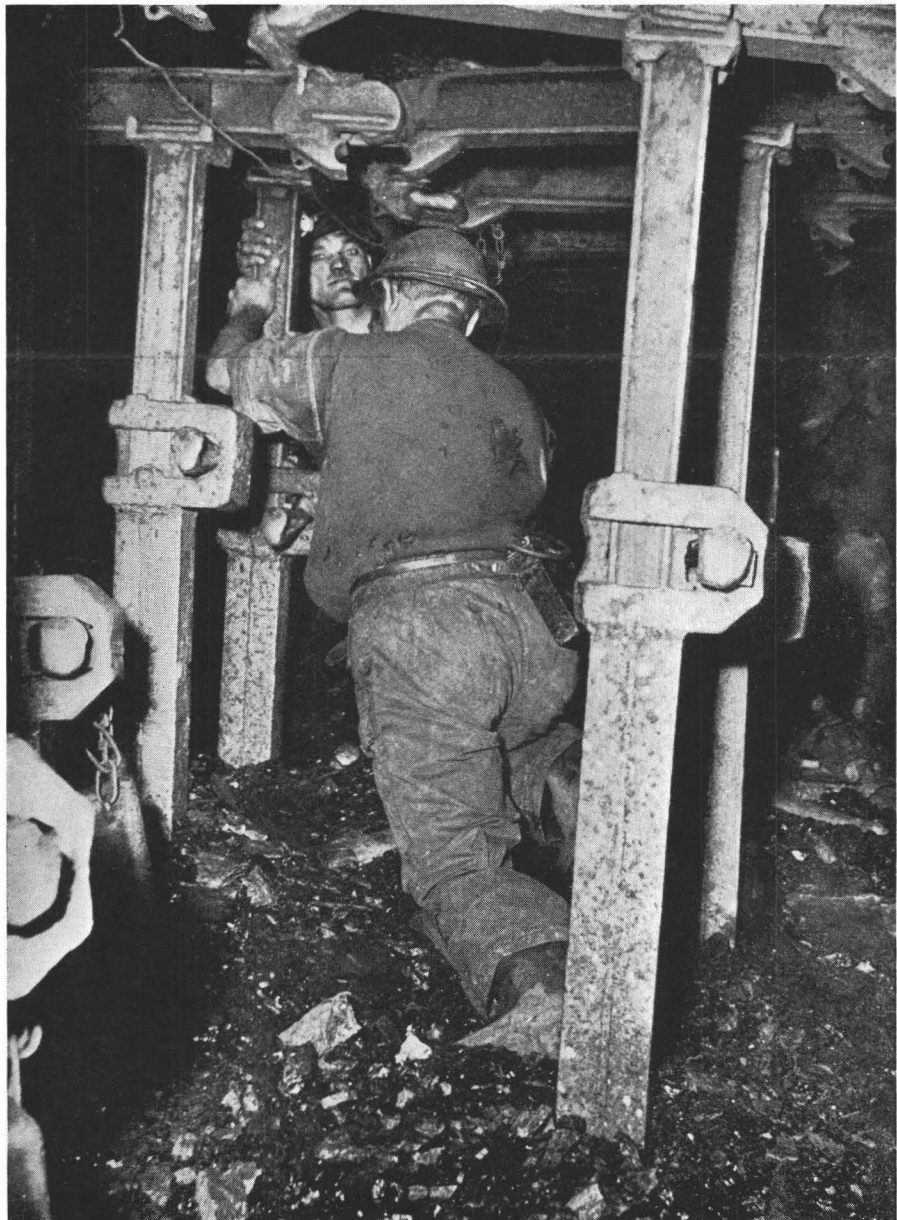
Bulletin from the
EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY
for coal and steel

INFORMATION SERVICE • HIGH AUTHORITY • LUXEMBOURG

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Removing metal props in the La Houve mine, Lorraine Basin (France). Especial importance is placed in the Community's research plans (see p. 6) on methods of roof support.



HIGH AUTHORITY PRESIDENT RESIGNS

M. René Mayer announced to his colleagues of the High Authority on September 18 his intention of resigning from his office as Member and President of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community as from October 15.

In his letter of resignation President Mayer recalled that he accepted office on June 1, 1955, on the occasion of the Messina Conference which marked the relaunching of the European idea. Now, the letter continued, with the Rome Treaties signed and their ratification under way in the six member countries, a new epoch had opened in the building of Europe. By placing his office at the disposal of the Governments President Mayer therefore hoped to facilitate their tasks in allotting the posts of Members and Presidencies of the three European institutions (Coal and Steel Community, European Economic Community, and Euratom), and consequently allow the new structure to embark on its work harmoniously as a whole.

In accordance with the terms of the Treaty, President Mayer is continuing to exercise his functions until a new President is nominated by the member Governments.

He is the second person to have held office as President, following M. Jean Monnet upon the latter's resignation



in 1955. Previously he had been French Premier from January 7, 1953 to May 1, 1953 and had held many ministerial posts since the war, including that of Minister of Finance in 1951, in which capacity he spoke on behalf of the Treaty establishing the Coal and Steel Community before the National Assembly.

The Tasks Ahead.

Addressing the Common Assembly earlier this year at Strasbourg, M. Mayer had these comments to make on the new vistas opening up for Europe :

“ This is a time when Europe is embarking on a further lap on its way to becoming *one*, or rather to becoming Europe.

The making of Europe is going ahead on the basis of the partial integration achieved in the institutions of the Coal and Steel Community, towards further integration broader and far-reaching and more political in its implications.

If the Schuman Plan in 1951 was the germ, and the Coal and Steel Community in 1954 was left as a marker, the Community is today in 1957 serving as a testing and take-off ground. . . .

We do not seek to disassemble the difficulties, still less the pauses and the inevitable and sometimes disappointing delays, involved by the venture now to be undertaken to complement and extend the one which we ourselves began.

But we may say from our own experience that although these difficulties must not be minimized, they must not at the same time be magnified. And we may repeat once again from our own experience that where there is the political will, it is possible to search out and gradually shape the technical way.

The task is thus straightforward and obvious enough. Things do not happen that way so very often. It is for us to make the most of it ”.

Assembly President's Comments.

Interviewed by the Press on his reactions to the news of M. Mayer's resignation, M. Hans Furler, President of the Common Assembly of the Community, said that he was both surprised and sorry to learn of the High Authority President's decision. “ Collaboration between the President and Parliament ”, he said, “ was excellent . . . M. Mayer showed that he wanted a close collaboration between the Executive and Parliament, and such collaboration is both useful and necessary. During the past two years relations between the High Authority and Parliament have become steadily better, thanks to the President and the position taken by the High Authority ”.

Commenting on some Press reports that it was the intention of the Common Assembly to reduce the position and powers of the High Authority, Herr Furler said that these reports were completely false. “ In our Assembly ”, he went on, “ there is no one who wishes this; on the contrary, we have always believed that it was essential



The High Authority in session, under the presidency of M. René Mayer.

that there should be a High Authority acting as a real Government. We should rather that it had too much power, rather than too little. We regret that the other Commissions in the new institutions do not have as much power. I repeat that we are the last to seek a restriction on the powers of the High Authority”.

A questioner then said that in some quarters M. Mayer's resignation had been interpreted as a machiavellian move to put France in a better position in regards to the nominations for the posts in the new institutions. With M. Mayer's departure, the French Government, for instance, would be in a position to ask for the presidency of the Economic Community. In reply, Herr Furler said that he had talked with M. Mayer and had not had this impression. Quite frankly, he had not discovered any other motive than that of making way for a free choice on the part of the Governments who would be faced by this problem of nominations to the new posts. He thought for his own part that there had been no need to resign quite so soon, but he did not think that the resignation affected very much the position of the various Governments: they merely had rather more liberty of choice than previously.

He went on to say in reply to another question that he did not think that the position of the High Authority

would be weakened by the resignation. “The High Authority”, he added, “has a legal position under the Treaty which it must maintain”. His hope was that its position would be strengthened rather than weakened. He did not agree that the High Authority's position had already become weaker, and that of the Council of Ministers stronger. He was aware that some criticised the High Authority for not using all the powers that it had, but it was clear that in many cases the High Authority had to manoeuvre with care. It was evident that there would have been grave difficulties had the High Authority taken all its decisions without previous consultation, and he well understood how it was that in some cases it had not fully exploited its powers.

Position of Vice-President

Turning to the question of the future position of one of the Vice-Presidents of the High Authority, M. Etzel, who had recently been elected to the Federal German Parliament, M. Furler pointed out that the Treaty did not allow a Member of the High Authority to be at the same time a member of a national parliament. But this was a decision which M. Etzel had to take himself. He hoped that there would not be too many changes in the important personnel of the staff, and especially in the membership of the High Authority itself.

European Integration : Progress and Problems

Before the year is out it is expected that the Treaties instituting the two new European Communities—the Economic Community and the Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)—will have been ratified by all the six member states concerned. Before they rose for the summer recess both the French and German Parliaments gave their assent. In the French Lower House there was a majority of 342-234 for the Economic Community treaty, and 332-240 for Euratom. Two amendments were adopted which require the French Government to present an annual report on the Economic Community's working, and on the measures which it has, or intends to take, to adapt the French economy to the needs of the common market, and to present before its Budget proposals for 1958 legislation to enable the country to enter the common market in the best possible condition. With these provisos the combined resolution was passed by 342-239, and was subsequently approved by the Upper House by 222-70.

On July 5 the Bundestag passed both Treaties by a large majority ; and its verdict was confirmed—unanimously—by the Bundesrat on July 19.

In Italy the Lower Chamber completed its examination of the Treaties before it rose for the summer, approving both. The debate was notable for the support given by the Nenni socialists to Euratom, and their abstention on the Economic Community treaty—their action contrasting in both cases with that of the Communists who voted against. The Senate approved the Treaties by an overwhelming majority on October 10.

The Dutch Lower House approved the Bill ratifying the European Economic Community Treaty on October 4 by 114 votes to 12. The Protestant Reform Party, the Communists, and three other individual members voted against. A Liberal amendment seeking the recognition of the special position of the Netherlands in regard to the increase of her population was rejected, but the House approved another amendment asking for an annual report on the common market. The bill ratifying the Euratom Treaty was also passed by the lower House, only the Communists voting against.

Examination of the Treaties is well under way in the remaining parliaments—those of Belgium and Luxembourg. No particular difficulties in ratification are expected in any of the bodies to be consulted.

Problems to be faced.

The expected ratification of the Treaties presents the six Governments with various questions that require prompt action, two of the most pressing being the membership and siting of their various institutions. A number of meetings have been held to discuss this; one, organised and presided over by M. Dehousse, a Belgian senator and President of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, was held at Paris on October 3-6. Bringing together twenty-one leading politicians from eight European countries—including Lord Layton (Great Britain), M. Robert Schuman and M. Jean Monnet (France), Herr Gerstenmaier and Herr Kiesinger (Germany), Signor Benvenuti (Italy), Mr. Beyen (Holland)

and M. Van Zeeland (Belgium)—this meeting considered the future prospects of European federation. "Their decisions," said *The Times*, "are not binding on Governments, but are typical of the work of pioneers of the European idea to prepare official and private opinion for further integration schemes".

On the question of the staffing of the new institutions, it was agreed that the heads of the various executive bodies should be for the most part politicians rather than diplomatists or technicians. It was also agreed that each Government should be asked to appoint a Cabinet Minister to specialise in problems of European integration.

There was similar general agreement that all the main European bodies, existing or about to be created, should be grouped in one place. The advantages of choosing an existing city, or creating a new "federal" territory were also discussed.

Trade Union View.

These and other problems were also discussed at a meeting of the "Committee of 21"—a body which groups representatives of some 12 million Community workers who are members of the unions affiliated to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions—which was held in Luxembourg on September 26. The Committee urged that the institutions of the three Communities should be grouped together in one city. National susceptibilities on this point should give way before a logical and efficient solution, the meeting said.

The Committee also demanded trade union representation at all levels in the new European bodies and an equal share for workers' representatives of the seats in the future Economic and Social Council, which will advise the European Economic Commission.

A general meeting of some 70 representatives of the six countries' trade union federations has been called for November with the purpose of fixing a common approach to the social and economic policy which the unions wish to see developed in the new institutions.

The meeting of the Committee was presided over by M. Robert Botherau, Secretary-General of the French Confédération Générale du Travail—Force Ouvrière, who was appointed official spokesman of the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of the six countries to the Interim Committee on the Common Market in Brussels.

Free Trade Area

Proposals for a Free Trade Area which is intended to link the Community of the Six to a wider area free from restrictions on trade are still being discussed both within the O.E.E.C. at Paris and among the interested governments. The nature and content of the Area is still far from certain, the British Government's original proposals for the exclusion of agriculture having met with considerable resistance among certain other of the proposed members. Intensive discussions on this and other points are proceeding, the O.E.E.C. having met at Paris on October 16 to review the position.

The determination of H.M. Government to bring these talks to a successful conclusion was emphasised by the announcement on August 7 that Mr. Reginald

Maudling, Paymaster-General, had been chosen by the Prime Minister to take special duties in connection with the negotiations. Mr. Maudling is to supervise and co-ordinate the Government's preparations for these, and to take part in them as the Government's representative. He is to work in consultation with the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the President of the Board of Trade, reporting directly to the Prime Minister. After a visit to Paris, during which he saw among others the Minister of Finance, M. Gaillard, he said: "I can say categorically that Britain wants a free trade zone. The outlook would be really black if no solution to the difficulties were found".

Elevated to Cabinet rank on September 17, Mr. Maudling resumed his tour of European capitals after returning from a visit with the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the United States and Canada. At Bonn, where he had exploratory talks with Herr von Brentano, Foreign Minister, and Dr. Erhard, Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Maudling said:—

"Everyone is agreed on the political desirability of free trade but technical problems are very difficult. The area of agreement is wide, but a number of disagreements still exist on difficult points of the projected free trade area".

Press Comment.

Echoing Mr. Maudling's words, *The Times*, on October 9, in the second of a series of articles dedicated to the Free Trade Area entitled "British proposal under fire" wrote: "It is easier to find critics of the Free Trade Area Plan in Europe than vigorous supporters". *The Financial Times*, in a leading article two days earlier entitled "The next round", wrote:—

"With Mr. Thorneycroft's return from Ottawa, the stage is now set for negotiations on the European free trade area, which are at present scheduled to start under O.E.E.C. auspices on October 16. It is clear that these negotiations are going to prove protracted and difficult. As the Common Market moves nearer to fruition, there is a distinct tendency among certain members of the Six to lose interest in the wider horizons of a free trade area . . .

"The British Government will be anxious to see quick progress made in the forthcoming negotiations. The Common Market is due to come into existence on January 1 . . . and within a year the first tariff reductions between the Six will be effected. It is important that tariff reductions between the U.K. and Europe should be made simultaneously, though this may now be very difficult to effect".

Great Britain and the E.C.S.C.

While the shape of the U.K.'s relationship with the two new European Communities remains to be settled, recent months have seen an intensification of its existing relations with the Coal and Steel Community. A further meeting of the Council of Association is to be held at Luxembourg on Thursday, October 24. Mr. Maudling is to head the British delegation. Agreement is expected to be reached on the future level of the British steel tariff *vis-à-vis* the Community, in view of the harmonisation of the Community's own steel tariffs due to take place at the end of the transition period in February next year. (See July issue of this Bulletin.)



Mr. Reginald Maudling.

In the meantime, preliminary informal talks have taken place between officials of both sides on problems presented by the proposal to include goods covered by the Community Treaty in the proposed Free Trade Zone.

At a recent meeting of the Coal Committee (one of the three set up by the Council of Association) in Luxembourg Great Britain and the Community decided to undertake a joint assessment of their long-term energy problems. Previously the High Authority had made available to the U.K. Government its General Objectives, and the U.K. had supplied the High Authority with a document on Britain's energy situation up to 1975. The new joint study will co-ordinate the slightly different bases of the previous work completed separately, and will enable both partners in the Council of Association to frame their energy policy for the future.

Community Experts to visit Britain

Vocational training experts of the European Coal and Steel Community are to visit this country from November 25 to December 5 to study on the spot vocational training measures in British coal-mines. The experts, whose visit is being organised jointly by the National Coal Board and the High Authority, are all members of the High Authority's special Sub-Committee on vocational training in the coal industry.

The group, which is expected to number about 20, is to spend the first part of its visit in London at the headquarters of the Coal Board in preliminary discussions with British experts. It will then make a number of visits to selected Divisions of the Board in various parts of the country. During a visit to the Northumberland and Cumberland and Durham Divisions the High Authority experts will visit training establishments, technical colleges and the Mining Department of the University of Durham. A further visit will be made to the West Midlands Division based on Stoke, and subsequently to the National Coal Board's Staff College at Chalfont St. Giles in Buckinghamshire.

Technical Research

A major long-term problem when the Community began was the need to further and co-ordinate technical research in the coal and steel industries. Compared with the United States, Great Britain, and Soviet Russia, where such research is carried out on the grand scale, the Community countries very often lagged behind. And even where large sums of money had been spent on necessary research in one country or another or in different sectors of industry, national divisions and the partitioning of markets made progress uneven. Lack of co-ordination, moreover, sometimes led to the duplication of research projects, and wasted the time, money, and effort put into them.

Under the terms of the Treaty setting up the European Coal and Steel Community, the High Authority can act to solve this problem in two ways. It *must* encourage and co-ordinate research into the production and use of coal and steel, and help to make technical improvements more widely known. In addition, it *may* give financial assistance to important research projects, provided that their results are made generally available within the Community. In fact, it has taken action along both these lines, for which it has set aside a total of £1,200,000.

Co-ordinating Coal Research

Its first step, in April 1953, was to help collate the results of existing research, by forming three inter-national committees, two for coal and one for steel. Each consists of experts from the industries and research centres of the Community countries, together with British participants. On coal, one committee deals with coking and other coal uses, the other with mining methods. The Coke Committee has so far examined such points as the preparation of coking coal, the operation of coke ovens, and research into other methods of increasing the yield of coal in gas and synthetic fuels. At the same time, the Mining Methods Committee has dealt with tunnelling technique, roof support, mechanical coal-getting, and ventilation in the pits. Both Committees have worked in close collaboration with the technical experts who helped to frame the Community's General Objectives, including objectives for future research. Many of the projects recommended are already well in hand in the Community countries, but several have been earmarked as especially important. These include:

- the mechanisation of coal-getting and haulage, and methods of working thin seams ;
- roof support and control, by means of better props and roof bars, and a greater use of mechanised methods of coal-face support;
- the driving of roadways, particularly by the use of tunnelling machines ;
- a scientific study of rock pressure ;
- the detection and elimination of firedamp, and general improvement of ventilation;
- improved air-conditioning plant for use underground.

Research of various kinds is an important part of the High Authority's task. About one-third of the total of more than £3½ millions which it has set aside for this is being used for industrial research described below.

The Coal Research Committees have also collaborated with the full-scale Community Conference on Safety in Coalmines which opened in September 1956, and concluded its work early in February 1957. This Conference was partly concerned with the development and improvement of instruments for the quick and accurate detection of firedamp and underground fires, as well as for measuring the carbon monoxide content of the air underground. The Conference particularly stressed the need for a continuously recording apparatus which would indicate carbon monoxide content to within 1/1000%, over and above the intermittent manually-operated instruments now in use. To stimulate research in this field, by organising competitions and providing prizes, the High Authority has made a special grant of just over £70,000 (\$200,000). It is on steel research, however, that the High Authority has made the greatest use of its powers to grant financial aid. A condition of such aid is that the research should



The automatic control panel of an Askania boiler at the Dortmund-Hoeder Huetteneverein, Germany. The more efficient use of fuel is one of the aims of the technical research programme.

be of widespread interest to Community firms, and that those who receive the aid should themselves contribute a major part of the full cost. The total sum now set aside for research on steel amounts to £1 million, divided among several of the many topics dealt with by the Steel Research Committee. These include tests of various coke grades, technical conditions in steel-rolling, improvement of refractory materials, and methods of reducing the input ratio of coke at the blast-furnaces.

Long-term needs.

The High Authority's steel research programme, like that for coal, is largely dictated by the Community's long-term needs as forecast in the General Objectives. One of the main objectives is to ease the strain on limited scrap supplies by the development of steelmaking processes based on pig-iron.

But sufficient supplies of pig-iron in turn demand sufficient supplies of coke. Research can help to solve this problem by trying to broaden the range of coals suitable for coking, and by seeking to reduce the input ratio of coke per ton of pig-iron.

The biggest single sum so far allotted in the High Authority's technical research programme, £360,000, is earmarked to help make comparative tests of different grades of blast-furnace coke. These experiments are to be carried out at the Dillinger Hüttenwerke in the Saar, with two identical blast-furnaces, one using hard Ruhr coke and the other using coke made from softer grades of coal less suitable for coking. The shortage of good coking fines has also led the High Authority to promote the use of sintering; but since this process is well-known, there is less need of further research in this field. Meanwhile, in June 1956, the High Authority launched a series of research projects designed to reduce the input of coke in blast-furnaces. To this end, it has granted £300,000 towards a three-year series of experiments in Liège in a low-shaft furnace operated as a small blast furnace.

Here the tests can be carried out more quickly and more cheaply than in an ordinary blast-furnace, and there are particularly good facilities for preparing the burden. A further £232,000 has been set aside for similar experiments, and will be allocated to firms and research centres after consultation with the Technical Research Committee. In addition, the High Authority has made a grant of £37,500 to accelerate the construction of an experimental furnace which will aid the work undertaken by the International Flame Radiation Study Committee to improve the thermal efficiency of various fuels.

Alongside these projects, the High Authority has also promoted a systematic examination of the refractory properties of silica bricks used for the roof of open-hearth furnaces. £100,000 was set aside to aid these tests, which were carried out in a number of Community furnaces, and completed in March 1957. Further laboratory tests are now under way, and the full report on them is expected towards the beginning of next year. Finally, £71,000 has been allotted to a study of rolling-mill techniques. This is aimed at determining steel behaviour under identical processes carried out in different mills, and at isolating the various factors contributing to the formation and adherence of scale. The work on this project, including the laboratory testing, is now on the verge of completion, and the final report will be submitted early in 1958.

Long-term Objectives

The expansion of Community industry is governed in very large measure by progress in scientific knowledge and by the speed with which its results are put into practice on the broadest possible front. It is essential, therefore, that research should be concentrated on priority projects, and that overlapping should be avoided by the co-ordination of technical studies and by making their results more widely known. In this sphere, as in the sphere of investments, the High Authority's aid at crucial points acts as a catalyst for essential work in Community industries, and forms an indispensable complement to its long-term objectives for coal and steel.

GETTING THE NAMES RIGHT

In a Common Market, as in a home market, the customer must be able to know what he is ordering, and the supplier must know what his customer wants. But when the Common Market for coal and steel was opened, each of its member countries used a different terminology for its coal and steel products. One of the High Authority's research tasks, therefore, has been to find a standardised common nomenclature and common measurements and standards—"Euronorms"—for use in dealing with Common Market products in all countries of the Community. These Euronorms, which are worked out by a special co-ordinating committee, are lined up with the existing national standards, and based on the work of the International Standardization Organization (I.S.O.).

So far, 55 Euronorms have already been established, covering pig-iron and ferro-alloys. Sixteen further Euronorms are at present being checked by experts, and will then be submitted to the co-ordinating committee for final adoption. These are concerned chiefly with the application of certain testing methods, and with technical delivery terms, as well as a number of definitions.

On coal, the High Authority in 1955 prepared a comprehensive document for the six member governments, to assist them in co-ordinating their work on international coal classification under the U.N.'s Economic Commission for Europe, in Geneva. This work is now completed, and forms the basis for a full classification of the types and grades of hard coal produced in the Community, which will be published in the near future.



The High Authority's Headquarters at Luxembourg.

HIGH AUTHORITY'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

On August 10 the High Authority, the Executive of the E.C.S.C., celebrated the fifth anniversary of its establishment in Luxembourg on August 10, 1952.

In a statement to the Press Herr Franz Etzel, Vice-President of the High Authority, said: "It was not without scepticism that the start of the High Authority's activity was awaited. Today, Governments and Parliaments, industrial associations and the trade unions, together with an important section of public opinion, are in broad agreement in approving and following up this first step towards the economic unity of Europe. Only the positive results achieved by the E.C.S.C. have made possible the new strides forward which will be taken with the creation of the European Economic and Atomic Communities".

In its five years of existence the High Authority has held 389 meetings and has set up a single market for coal and steel throughout its six member states—Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. Trade barriers have been abolished for these products; common rules have been applied and have worked; and common guidance is given to Community coal and steel enterprises. During this period both production and

trade in coal and steel have undergone an unprecedented expansion.

At the High Authority's first meeting, held on August 10, 1952, its first president, M. Jean Monnet, declared:

"Six parliaments have decided, after mature reflexion and by massive majorities, to create the first European Community, which merges a part of national sovereignties and submits them to the common interest".

Now, only five years later, the six governments which brought the High Authority into being are already preparing to set up two further executive bodies, the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, which will be responsible for integrating the whole range of the economies of the six member states and for guiding the peaceful development of nuclear energy.

The experience of the High Authority, the lessons learned from the operation of the first European Community, and the success of the first Common Market, have had a major influence on the drafting of the new treaties and their acceptance by the Community's governments and parliaments. When these treaties become effective, the E.C.S.C.'s Common Assembly and Court of Justice will be transformed into larger bodies serving the Economic and Atomic Communities.

Commenting on the anniversary, the *Financial Times* said in a leading article under the title "Europe's Record":—

"The fifth anniversary of the establishment of the European Coal and Steel community", it said, "is an important landmark in the post-war efforts to free European trade. Not only has it been the first organisation to succeed in enforcing practical moves towards the elimination of tariffs and restrictions within its own field, but it is also the direct ancestor of the proposed European Common Market. Although the fact was largely forgotten in Britain, the Coal and Steel Community had as one of its objects from its very beginning the establishment of a common market between Germany, France, Italy, and the Benelux countries for a much wider range of commodities. The 1955 Messina Conference, from

which the present proposals directly sprang, was one of the periodic meetings of Community Ministers.

"The recent record of the Community is especially interesting in view of the establishment in the autumn of 1955 of a Council of Association including both Britain and the Community countries: for contrary to earlier fears this Council has proved to be a practical and businesslike body . . .

"The relation of Britain to the Coal and Steel Community bears an interesting similarity to the proposed relationship between the Common Market and the wider Free Trade Area. A great deal could be learnt from the actual workings of the Council, and it is significant that officials have already met to discuss the implications of wider European Free Trade on the market for coal and steel."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ruhr Coal Prices

Important decisions on coal prices and general energy policy were reached at a meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Community held at Luxembourg on October 8. The meeting was attended by Dr. Erhard, German Economic Minister, for the first time in more than two and a-half years.

The problem of the recent rise in Ruhr coal prices (an average of 4.7 DM per ton for coal, and 6.2 DM for coke) was raised by the Netherlands Minister of Economics. The Council was unanimous in its opposition to a reimposition of maximum prices. It also asked the High Authority, when considering the new price lists, to consider the general economic policy of member states. The High Authority, for its part, said that it would examine the prices in the light of its Treaty powers, and in view of the need for investment capital in the coal-mining industry.

Commenting at a subsequent Press conference on the question, M. Mayer observed that the rise in Ruhr coal prices had not been unexpected, and that there had been a general upward movement in Community coal prices. Ruhr Coal, indeed, remained the cheapest in the Community, apart from certain types of Dutch coal. In its examination of the problem, however, the High Authority would pay special attention to whether or not there had been any abuse in the way coal prices were being formed.

Planning an Energy Policy

The Council at the same meeting empowered the High Authority to provide guidance to the Council on a six-nation energy policy, including making recommendations on measures which should be taken to further it. To this end the High Authority is to seek co-operation with the Commissions of the European Economic Community and Euratom once these are set up.

Assembly meeting in Rome

The next meeting of the Common Assembly of the Community is to be held—for the first time—in Rome, at

Palazzo Montecitorio (the seat of the Italian Chamber of Deputies) from November 5-9. Reports will be presented and discussed on the following topics—mine safety, the free circulation of labour in the Community and the co-ordination of European transport. On November 8 there will be a general debate with the Council of Ministers and the High Authority on certain questions connected with the co-ordination of the economic, social and transport policies of the six member countries.

New Mobility for Skilled Workers

From September 1 onwards, skilled coal and steel workers in the Community have been able to seek work freely in any of its six member countries. Since that date, broad categories of workers, covering 29 trades in the coal industry and 27 in the steel industry, have been able to obtain from their regional employment service an E.C.S.C. labour card.

This card enables the holder to work at his trade in any of the six countries without requiring the labour permit normally needed by foreign workers. He is now also able to accept an offer of employment made by an employer in any of the six countries, either directly in writing or through the normal employment services.

The issue of the card is one of the measures which, by aiding the free circulation of labour, will promote the upwards harmonisation of living and working standards throughout the Community. It has been made possible by a convention among the member governments of the Community. Originally proposed by the High Authority, and approved by the Council of Ministers on December 8, 1954, it has only just come into force following ratification by the last of the six member states—Luxembourg—on June 1, 1957.

Austrian Rail Transport Agreement

A railway rate agreement was signed on July 26 in Luxembourg between the Austrian Federal Government, the Member states of the E.C.S.C., and the High Authority.

This marks the end of negotiations which were begun last autumn between the Federal Government and the High Authority, which has received for this purpose a mandate from the governments of the Community's six member states.

The aim of the Agreement is to abolish "breaks in rates" at the Austrian frontier for Community goods in transit between the German-Austrian and the Italian-Austrian frontiers. It is hoped that its application will develop the volume of such traffic to the advantage of both partners to the Agreement. A similar agreement with Switzerland came into force on July 1, 1957.

High Authority Eases Direct Access to Ruhr Coal

The High Authority on July 26 substantially eased the conditions under which Community wholesalers may buy their suppliers direct from the three independent Ruhr coal-selling agencies.

The three agencies were set up by the High Authority on March 31, 1956 after it had dissolved the former German coal-selling cartel G.E.O.R.G. (Gemeinschafts-organisation Ruhrkohle). In order to buy direct from the three agencies, a wholesaler had to meet three conditions. He had to sell on the Common Market:

- (1) a total of 75,000 tons of Community coal in a year;
- (2) in his own sales area, 40,000 tons of Community coal in a year;
- (3) in his own sales area, 12,500 tons yearly of coal bought from one of the three agencies.

These conditions already marked an advance on the G.E.O.R.G. regime, whereby wholesalers had to handle 48,000 tons of Ruhr coal a year in order to buy direct. But the new system was to run only for a one-year trial period, and has now been revised to allow even more wholesalers to buy direct.

Under the revised system, a wholesaler who wishes to buy direct from the three coal-selling agencies need only have sold on the Common Market, during the previous year:

- (1) a total of 60,000 tons (instead of 75,000 tons) of Community coal;
- (2) in his own sales area 30,000 tons (instead of 40,000 tons) of Community coal;
- (3) in his own sales area 9,000 tons (instead of 12,500 tons) of Community coal bought from one of the three agencies.

The first two of these new conditions, which also include certain special exceptions for Dutch wholesalers, will be reviewed after March 31, 1958, to ensure that they do not eliminate too many of the wholesalers who would otherwise be allowed direct access to the Ruhr.

Assuring Future of Re-rollers

More specialisation, long-term contracts with suppliers, and increased vertical concentration are among the solutions suggested in various quarters to meet the current supply difficulties of the Community's re-rollers. In the meantime the High Authority has succeeded in limiting the deficit in steel supplies to Belgian re-rollers in June to 3,500 tons. In July it made available an extra 1,750 tons from suppliers in Belgium and Luxembourg. An initial meeting between representatives of the industry and the

High Authority was held on June 26; and a second meeting is to be held shortly.

The present difficulties of the industry, which in recent months have caused a number of firms to stop or reduce production and to lay off workers, are chiefly due to shortage of supplies in the present heavy demand for steel. Integrated steel works have been absorbing their own production of steel bars, which formerly went to the transforming industry, and ingot production is at the same time insufficient for rolling capacity. Some re-rollers have had difficulty in securing necessary supplies of scrap, and have found their competitive position further undermined by having to pay certain taxes which the products of an integrated steel works avoid.

While the High Authority believes that in the long run a solution has to be found by the industry itself, and that its own function must be restricted to suggesting possible solutions on the basis of a careful analysis of the situation, it does not exclude the possibility of further measures. These might include readaptation assistance for the workers affected, measures to bring down to the level of Community prices, the price of imported semi-finished products needed by the re-rollers, and special concessions in the amount paid by re-rollers to the Community's scrap equalisation fund.

Steel Production Buoyant

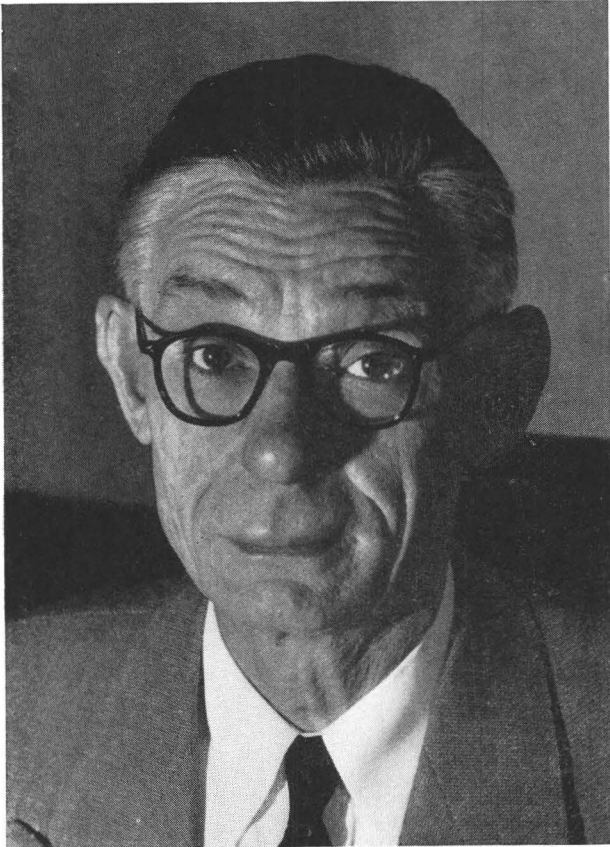
Steel production in the Community in September passed the 5-million ton mark for the first time since March 1957. Provisional figures published by the High Authority's statistical division show an output of crude steel of 5,064,000 metric tons, compared with 4,876,000 in August and 4,752,000 in September 1956.

The September output brought the Community's total steel production for the first nine months of 1957 to 44,111,000 metric tons—over two million tons or 5% ahead of the total of 42,004,000 metric tons for January–September 1956. The Community's largest percentage increases this year have taken place in Italy (15.7%) and the Netherlands (13.1%).

The break-down by countries was as follows (in thousands of metric tons):—

	Sept. 1957	Jan.-Sept. 1957	Jan.-Sept. 1956	% change first 9 months 1956-7
Germany ...	2,057	18,114	17,229	+ 5.1
Saar ...	286	2,577	2,503	+ 3.0
Belgium ...	546	4,581	4,722	— 3.0
France ...	1,200	10,324	9,875	+ 4.5
Italy ...	593	5,014	4,334	+15.7
Luxembourg	282	2,623	2,565	+ 2.3
Netherlands	100	878	776	+13.1
Community				
Total	5,064	44,111	42,004	+ 5.0

Community output of pig-iron and ferro-alloys was also at a high level in September at 3,826,000 metric tons, compared with 3,774,000 in August, and 3,629,000 in September, 1956. For the first nine months of the year, output reached 33,396,000 metric tons, against 32,331,000 for the January-September period of 1956.



M. Paul Finet.



M. Léon Daum.

Mine Safety Commission's First Meeting

The permanent body on mine safety—the Mine Safety Commission—set up by the European Coal and Steel Community, decided at its first meeting held at Luxembourg on September 26, to try to find ways of organising mutual aid between the Community's mine rescue centres, and in particular to draw up a mobilisation plan for rescue services. It decided to set up a special committee comprising representatives of the regional and national rescue services of the Community countries to carry out this task. The committee will gather information on rescue equipment and methods in each coal-field, and undertake a systematic comparison of them.

The Mine Safety Commission, which met under the chairmanship of M. Léon Daum and in the presence of M. Paul Finet, both Members of the High Authority, also decided on the organisation of its future work. It set up special committees to examine the action to be taken on the resolutions of the Mine Safety Conference which submitted its report to the High Authority in March, 1957; to draw up reports after any accident which occurs; and to make a study of accident statistics.

The Commission heard a report from the High Authority on progress made so far in research on the effect of the wage structure, and particularly of piece rates, on safety, and decided to call a second plenary session as soon as sufficient data were available.

M. Marcel Gerlache, of the High Authority's Labour

Problems Division, was nominated Secretary of the Commission.

The Commission comprises delegates nominated by the governments of the Community's six member countries to represent the mines administration, and employers' and workers' organisations, as well as representatives of the United Kingdom and the International Labour Office.

The setting up of this new body is the direct result of an initiative taken by the High Authority at the time of the Marcinelle mining disaster in Belgium in August, 1956. In agreement with the Council of Ministers, a Conference on mine safety was called of experts of the six countries, at which observers from Great Britain and interested international organisations were also present. The final plenary session of the Conference in February, 1957, recommended to the High Authority the setting up of a permanent body to improve mine safety standards in the Community.

The European School

A "Baccalauréat Européen"—a European secondary school-leaving certificate—will be awarded to pupils at the European Coal and Steel Community's School in Luxembourg, as the result of an agreement signed there on July 15 by representatives of the Community's six member governments, led by M. Joseph Bech, Prime Minister of Luxembourg.

This certificate, which will be the first of its kind to cut across national educational frontiers, will give to



Trial of strength at the European School.

pupils in the school belonging to the six member countries a qualification equivalent in all respects to that given in their schools at home.

The European School came into existence in 1953 to meet the needs of the children of officials working for the Community. It was granted official recognition on April 12, 1957, when its Statute was signed by the six countries' representatives.

The school—which has some 370 pupils of nine nationalities, divided into nursery, primary and secondary grades—has a common curriculum for the different language sections. The school-leaving examination will be run by an international jury presided over in turn by a university professor from each of the Community countries.

The new academic year began for the school on September 30: later in the year, on December 11 the school's new building will be officially opened.

For Further Information

Copies of the High Authority's Fifth Annual Report and the Report of Euratom's "Three Wise Men" *Target for Euratom* are now available in English, free of charge, from the address below.

Also available are the illustrated brochures *The Facts, What is the Community?*, *First Steps in European Integration* and *Real Incomes of Workers in the Community*.

For these and other services, please write to :—

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