

## CF&I Subsidiaries

# American Wire Fabrics Corp.

by B. L. Weaver

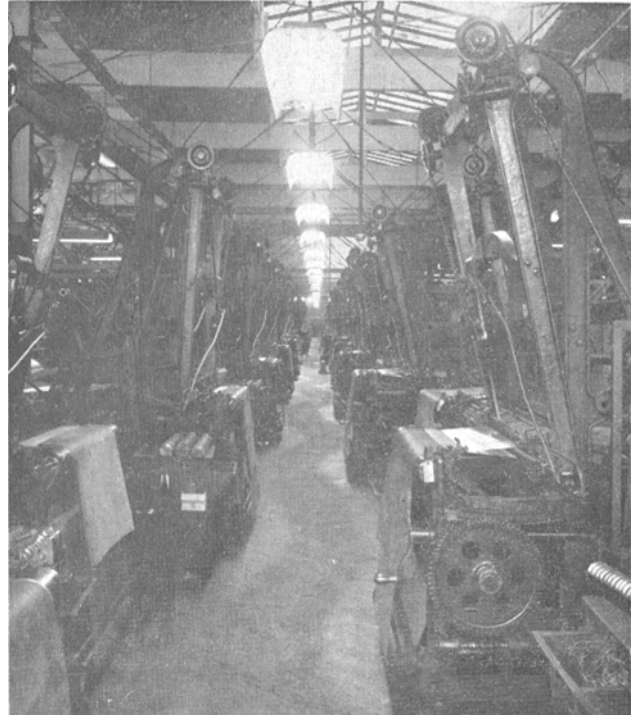
**A**MERICAN Wire Fabrics Co. was founded in 1912 by a combination of American Wire Cloth Co., Clinton, Iowa; National Wire Cloth Co., Niles, Mich.; and Pennsylvania Wire Cloth Co. of Mt. Wolf, for manufacturing insect screen cloth and industrial wire cloth. The Mt. Wolf plant was built in 1914, and frequent additions to the weaving equipment and warehousing facilities have brought this plant to its present capacity and position in the industry.

In 1922, American Wire Fabrics Co. was reorganized and became American Wire Fabrics Corp. Properties at that time also included New Freedom Wire Cloth Co. established in 1900, and Glen Rock Wire Cloth Co. These properties and assets were purchased in 1922 by Wickwire Spencer Steel Co.

During World War II, almost the entire output of the plant was for the armed services. Large quantities of American and Clinton brand screen cloth are used in the South Pacific. Distribution is national through sales offices in key cities through North and South America.

The equipment of this plant consists of 524 wire weaving looms, ranging in size to weave 24 to 72 in. cloth. The majority of these looms weave steel wire while, on the average, 125 looms are weaving aluminum cloth and 100 looms are producing bronze wire cloth. An average of 50 looms are engaged in weaving industrial cloth, including a variety of meshes required for separating various size seeds used in fanning mill operations.

The plant is equipped with one of the largest units for electrogalvanizing in the industry. This equipment comprises six large tanks used for galvanizing insect screen cloth woven from steel wire. The paint finishing dept. consists of ten large vats through which cloth of various widths is passed, receiving the proper paint or lacquer finish. The



This line of looms is only one of a dozen similar layouts in the plant. Altogether, there are 524 wire weaving looms in operation, most weaving steel wire.

finish is immediately baked on the wire at a temperature of 275°F.

The four weaving depts. have the looms supplied with the necessary bobbins by an overhead continuously operated bobbin conveyor. The mill has a capacity of between 14 and 15 million sq ft per month of all grades of wire; steel, aluminum, bronze, copper, nickel, and Monel.



**B. L. WEAVER**, American Wire Fabrics Corp., is a native of Steelton, Pa. Prior to his association with CF&I, he was superintendent of all foundries, iron and steel, for the Perma Steel Co., later the Bethlehem Steel Co. When not busy working, Mr. Weaver turns to his hobby of growing flowers.



Three galvanizing tanks can be seen from this end of the galvanizing dept. Total number of tanks in operation is six.