

# CF&I Opens Streamlined Tube Mill at Pueblo, Colo.

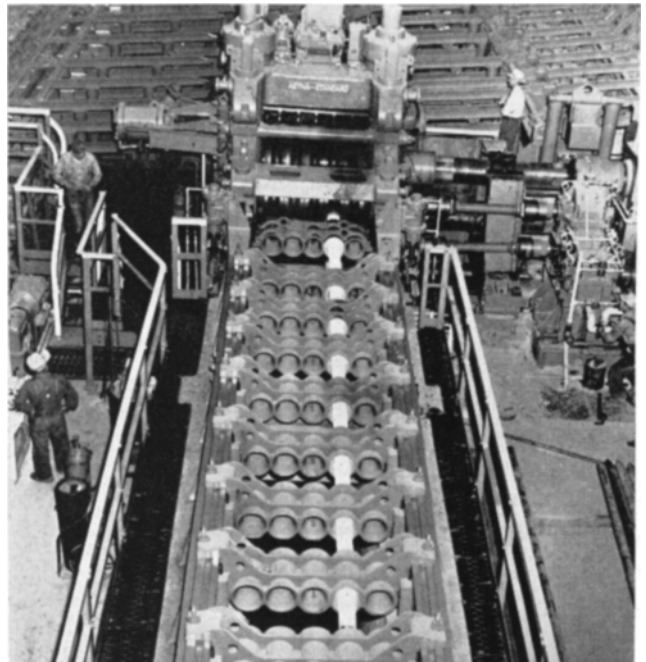


Metallurgists inspect the first seamless tubing turned out by the new CF&I mill at Pueblo, Colo. Primary market aim for the mill is gas and oil producers in the western U. S. and Canada area.

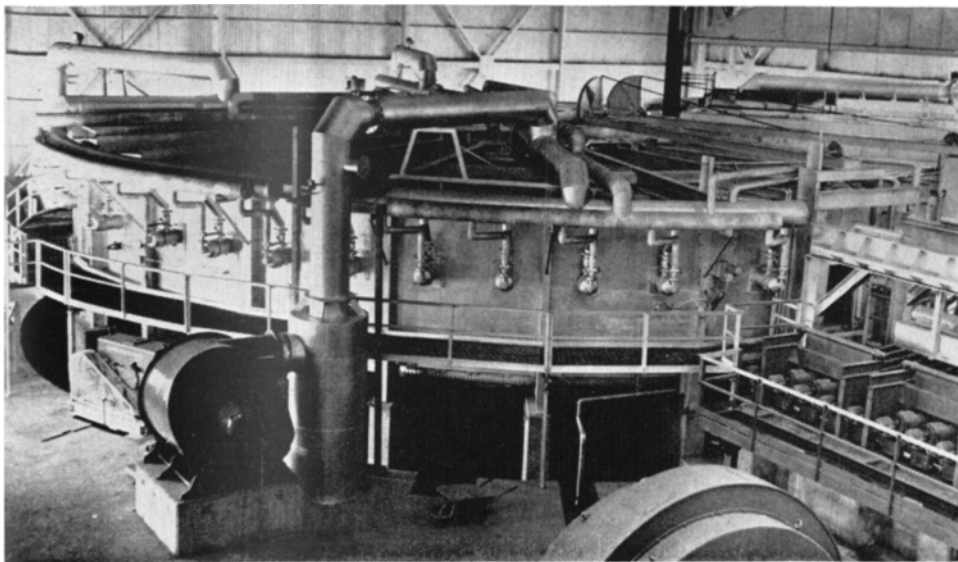
Western U. S. and Canadian gas and oil producers are the market target for Colorado Fuel & Iron Corp.'s new seamless tube mill at Pueblo, Colo., the first such installation west of the Mississippi. October 1953 issue of *JOURNAL OF METALS* gave a description of technical aspects of the mill. The ultra-modern mill is so situated as to be able to supply tube and casing to users in Kansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, west Texas, the Pacific coast, and western Canada. Once full production is reached, some 150,000 net tons of seamless pipe will be turned out annually, according to A. F. Franz, CF&I president.

After heating in a 70-ft rotary furnace, billets go to one of two 340-ton piercing mills powered by 3000-hp motors. Rough tubes are further processed by a 275-ton rolling mill. A 1500-hp motor powers the rolling mill. Next step is straightening and smoothing the inside and outside of the tubing in expanding mills. Final treatment takes place when a reducing mill finishes the product to specifications. The mill will produce pipe ranging from 2% to 9% in. OD.

Mill construction started in February 1952; the steel framework alone required five months to build. The completed mill consists of five long, rectangular one-story buildings joined side to side and topped by a single roof. The job took 37,000 cu yd of concrete and 10,000 tons of structural steel.



When the hollow shell comes from the piercing mill or reheat furnace to the rolling mill entry table, a mechanical ram forces the entering end of the shell over a rolling mill plug, permitting the rolls to grip the shell. When finished at the rolling mill, shell is uniform throughout.



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This huge 70-ft rotary furnace, one of the largest ever built for American industry, has sixty jets which heat billets from room temperature to 2300°F at the rate of 75 tons per hr. Heated billets go directly to the piercing mills.

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