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'Industrial murder'—union leader

BIG STEEL FIRMS BUY RIVAL AND CLOSE IT

By STANLEY VAUGHAN

TWO huge steel firms bought a smaller rival yesterday—to kill it off and snap up its orders.

About 1,000 workers will lose their jobs.

And last night a union official said: "This is industrial murder."

The big firms are the United Steel Companies, Ltd., and the English Steel Corporation.

Railway

Their doomed rival is the John Baker and Bessemer, Ltd., plant, which makes railway wheels, tyres and axles at Kilnhirst, near Rotherham, Yorks.

John Baker's owners—Iron and Steel Investments, Ltd.—have sold the firm for £1,500,000. The two buyers paid half each.

A joint announcement issued yesterday by the buyers and sellers said there was not nearly enough work for manufacturers in the railway wheel-tyre-and-axle market.

The two biggest in the field, the statement said, were firms owned by English Steel and United Steel.

And it had been decided that John Baker's must go, so that the bigger firms could be kept busier.

The shutdown, the statement said, was "in accord with the policy of the Iron and Steel Board . . . for the withdrawal of older or less efficient capacity."

Timing

A United Steel spokesman said later:

"The timing of the takeover has been considered carefully, to take place when there is an upsurge in steel demand, and plenty more jobs becoming available.

"The 1,000 workers to be made redundant will be paid off on the basis of age and length of service."

Yesterday was the first time union officials had heard of the plan.

Last night, the Amalgamated Engineering Union's area organiser, Mr. George Candlet, declared:

"This is industrial murder. The lack of consultation is deplorable." The shutdown is expected to be gradual.

John Bakers' chairman, 58-year-old Henry Baker—grandson of the founder—said last night:

"I trust that all our workpeople, who have served our firm and family so faithfully and well, will speedily be able to find alternative employment."

Iron and Steel Investments, which has sold John Bakers', was formed this year by Britain's ten biggest steel firms.

Its object was to buy up the last small steel firms to be denationalised.

Now 1,000 will lose their jobs



Plan to build a brainier Britain

By MIRROR REPORTER

A PLAN for opening wide the doors of opportunity to the brainy youngsters of the future was published yesterday.

It urges the Government to make bold and exciting advances in higher education so that by 1980 there will be:

TWICE the number of universities—sixty instead of the present thirty-two;

PLACES at universities and technical colleges for 560,000 students—two and a half times today's figure of 216,000.

The plan is put forward in a massive report by a committee headed by 64-year-old Lord Robbins, who is a former County School boy.

Cost

They admit that the cost of their sweeping and far-sighted proposals will be tremendous: £1,420,000,000 over the next seventeen years.

But it is understood that the Cabinet are ready to throw their full weight behind the committee's recommendations.

And a new Ministry, under Lord Hailsham, is expected to be set up to take charge of higher education.

Lord Taylor, author of the recent Labour report on higher education, said of the Robbins Report last night:

"It is a most encouraging document, almost entirely in line with what we recommended to the Labour Party."

The Brains of Britain—See Centre Pages.

B-B WANTS TO MEET YOU

By DONALD ZEC

BRIGITTE BARDOT, pictured above, flew into London from Paris last night—with pout, pony-tail and high boots.

She is here to complete scenes on her film "The Adorable Idiot," in which she stars with Hollywood's Anthony Perkins.

The cheers of "Good old Brigitte" and other appreciative noises at London Airport contrasted sharply with her departure from Paris.

There, police with tommy-guns drove cameramen out of the way.

She was hustled aboard by grim-faced, sweating officials who had kept her locked away in a private room until a few minutes before her plane took off.

Somebody compared it all to an official visit by General de Gaulle.

Says Brigitte: "I want to meet the British people again and visit some country perbs [*pubs*]. Also I would like to see Bookingham Palace."



England's Terry Paine jumps for joy, and now it's . .

WORLD CUP, HERE WE COME!

By BARRY STANLEY

WE beat 'em . . . £2,000,000-worth of the world's best footballers.

And now England is after that World Cup.

Yesterday's 2—1 victory over the Rest of the World at Wembley was England's fifth international win in a row.

A 100,000 crowd paid a record £90,000 to watch the match.

Another 250,000,000 people in twenty-three European countries saw the game on television.

They saw Terry Paine (Southampton) open the scoring for England in the 66th minute . . . and Dennis Law (Manchester Utd.) equalise for the Rest of the World 16 minutes later.

Greaves

Then, only four minutes from time, came the winner — from Tottenham's Jimmy Greaves.

After the match, 44-year-old Fernando Riera, Chilean boss of the Rest of the World side, said: "This is a great England side. They'll be difficult to beat in the World Cup."

Scottish inside forward Dennis Law, one of the beaten Rest, commented: "I still can't believe we lost. Scotland will wipe England into the ground."

Full report and pictures—See pages 30-31.