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## *Iron and Its Alloys*

### THE IMPORTANCE OF IRON

*From Sheet Iron Primer, Central Alloy Steel Corporation, Massillon, Ohio*

Iron is the most useful of all metals. Without iron, the world could not have advanced from savagery to civilization. Most of the countless things made by man today owe their making to his ability to smelt iron, and to refine and shape it into varied forms and products.

The houses we live in are dependent upon the art of iron-making. So are the conveyances which bear us on missions of business or pleasure. So are our tools of labor and our toys of play. Iron, often wearing the name and form of steel, provides the weapons of war and the implements of peace. Throughout world history the control of mines of iron ore has been a leading cause of conflict among nations.

Iron is the elder brother of steel. Steel, until our own time, was iron containing less carbon than cast iron (not more than two per cent) and more carbon than wrought iron. New steels, containing little carbon and created for many special purposes in recent years, meet this